

“This is my Story, This is my Song!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!** Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.
 - 1.1.1. This great hymn was written by the **blind** Fanny Crosby.
 - 1.1.2. She wrote more than **8000 hymns**, still being sung **more frequently** than those of any other gospel writer. [at a time 3 hymns a week]
- 1.2. **Musician friends** would 1st compose the **music** & then ask Fanny for the **words**.
Such was the case for *Blessed Assurance*.
 - 1.2.1. Mrs. Joseph Knapp, a friend & amateur musician, & wife of the *Metropolitan Life Insurance Company*, played this melody for the blind poetess & asked, “What does this tune say?” Fanny responded immediately, “Why, that says: **Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine.**”
 - 1.2.2. Fanny died at **95**. Engraved on her **tombstone** at Bridgeport, Connecticut are these significant words taken from our Lord’s remarks to Mary, the sister of Lazarus, after she had anointed Him w/costly perfume, “**She has done what she could.**” (Mark 14:7)
- 1.3. I picture Paul singing this, for this was **his story** & this was his **Swan Song!**
 - 1.3.1. {Swan Song = A reference to an ancient belief that the Mute Swan is completely mute during its lifetime until the moment just before it dies, when it sings one beautiful song}
 - 1.3.2. **My title: This is my Story, this is my Song.**
- 1.4. Well, last week we **left Paul** up on **the steps**, after almost being torn apart by the angry mob in Jerusalem.

2. **THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG! (1-30)**

- 2.1. **LEARN, LOOK, LISTEN!** (1-14)
- 2.2. Paul gets to tell the story of his life.
- 2.3. (1-3) He **adapts** it to this situation.
 - 2.3.1. He uses the national language of the day, actually **Aramaic** (mix of Hebrew & Syriac) {It predisposed the crowd to listen}
 - 2.3.2. A true Jew by **birth**, by **training**, by **conviction**.
- 2.4. (4,5) He had been one with them in his opposition to Christianity.
 - 2.4.1. Involved men & women; it extended even to death; he went as far as Damascus.
- 2.5. He uses **tact** & **presence of mind**, to **win** his hearers for Christ. (5a)
- 2.6. (6-11) He recounts his vision, emphasizing the supernatural element.
 - 2.6.1. **i.e. God’s** action alone explained so great a change in my life!
 - 2.6.2. Understand they thought Jesus was dead. Paul’s saying, “No I saw Him alive, talked to him, and he changed my life.”

- 2.7. (12) Paul's description of **Ananias** show how orthodox he was.
- 2.8. (14) **The God of our Fathers...**
- 2.9. **Not only saved, but saved to serve!**
- 2.10. **Learn!** – Know His will.
- 2.10.1. What is your calling? What His will for your life?
- 2.11. **Look!** – See the Just/Righteous One.
- 2.11.1. It has been well said, “The invitation to “**come & see**” (the empty tomb) was immediately followed by “**go & tell**”!
- 2.11.1.1. This is God's order for everyone who has had a **real vision** of the risen Christ.
- 2.11.2. Having “spiritual” **sight** of the Righteous One, is the secret of the Christian life! [Only He can: **save** us, **sanctify** us, **qualify** us, & **satisfy** us]
- 2.11.2.1. **Illus:** When the flower, the **Morning-Glory** closes at night, even the most **skillful surgeon** with the most **delicate instrument** can open that flower w/o destroying it; **but** the **returning sun** the next day opens it **easily, naturally, safely!**
- 2.11.3. Jn.9:29 **For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.**
- 2.12. **Listen!** – Hear the voice of His mouth.
- 2.12.1. What's He speaking to you lately?
- 2.13. It has been well said, “The invitation to “**come & see**” (the empty tomb) was immediately followed by “**go & tell**”!
- 2.13.1. This is God's order for everyone who has had a **real vision** of the risen Christ.
- 2.14. **WHY ARE YOU WAITING?** (15-21)
- 2.15. (15) **Witnesses** – There is no word in the NT used so **frequently** to express Christian service.
- 2.15.1. The dynamic of Christianity is a life that is a genuine witness for God.
- 2.15.2. **The greatest foes to Christianity is:**
- 2.15.3. **[1] Mere profession** - (ie) Standing up for the word of God, & then denying it by your life!
- 2.15.4. **[2] Living an exemplary life** - & yet failing to speak up for belief at any opportunity.
- 2.16. (16) The direction to **be baptized** follows logically.
- 2.16.1. **The grammatical structure** here is important. The, **wash away your sins** ties to the **calling on the name of the Lord** part. [see LKGNT]¹
- 2.16.1.1. Get baptized, because by calling on the name of the Lord your sins are washed away, so confirm it.

¹ LKGNT = Linguistic Key to the Greek New testament.

- 2.17. **Read Mark 16:16**
- 2.18. **What it doesn't say:** It doesn't say, "he who does not *get baptized* will be condemned." – **What it does say:** But he who does not **believe!**
- 2.18.1. **Belief** is always the **common denominator** in these verses!
 2.18.1.1. **i.e. repent & believe; confess w/mouth & believe w/heart; hear His Word & believe; see the Son & believe.**
- 2.18.2. To **Believe**...is to **trust, to depend, to rely upon** Christ Jesus.
- 2.18.3. To **be Baptized**...is to submit to the ordinance which **our Lord** fulfilled at Jordan; **to which** the **3000 converted ones** submitted to at Pentecost; **& to which the jailer** yielded obedience the very night of his conversion.
- 2.19. Baptism is an **outward sign** that sets forth our *death, burial, & resurrection* w/Jesus...& is **not** to be neglected!
- 2.19.1. **Baptism doesn't confer salvation; it confirms it!**
- 2.19.2. No mere mechanical rite can ever bestow forgiveness.
- 2.20. **2 verbs are used for baptism in the NT:**
- 2.20.1. **Bapto** (#911) **Dipped**. {To dip, dip in, immerse. To dip into dye, to dye, color}
 2.20.1.1. **Example:** Rev.19:13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**
- 2.20.2. **Baptizo** (#907, used here) **Baptized** {immerse}
- 2.21. **The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander** (who lived 2nd cent B.C.) **It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words.**
- 2.21.1. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be '**dipped**' (bapto) into boiling water, **and then 'baptised'** (baptizo) in the vinegar solution.
- 2.21.2. **Both verbs concern the immersing** of vegetables in a solution. But the **1st** is temporary - The **2nd**, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a **permanent change**.²
- 2.22. This word (Baptizo) more often refers to our **union and identification with Christ** than to our *water baptism*.
- 2.22.1. **Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!**³
- 2.23. Our baptism is today...**Why are you waiting?** (come talk to me)
- 2.24. (17-21) Luke's account in ch.9, Paul's supplements **9:26-29**.
- 2.25. (20) **Consenting** – to be pleased. Thought of **pleasurable agreement**, indicating Paul's **former callous attitude** towards martyr's suffering & death.⁴

² Enhanced Strong's Lexicon; See #907 or #911.

³ Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.

- 2.26. (21) **The Turning point** – the using of the word *Gentiles!*
 2.26.1. **Red lights flash, sirens go off.**
 2.26.2. If he didn't use that one word, he might have been set free.
 2.26.3. But that was the whole burden of his life & why he was arrested.
- 2.27. **SUFFERING FOR CHRIST VS. NEEDLESS SUFFERING!** (22-27)
 2.28. Wow, extremely dramatic & filled with suspense. [Almost torn apart by mob; saved by Claudius Lysias; crowd mad again; now about to be scourged by Lysias; then saved again by him]
- 2.29. (24) **Scourging** – the *water boarding* of the day to extract information.
 2.29.1. Try to flog Paul into some kind of confession.
- 2.30. Although Christ called him to *suffer for His name*, that calling did not include *needless suffering*.
 2.30.1. And Paul new that his task wasn't complete yet; he must still go to Rome. So he wisely guarded his life.
- 2.31. Being **needlessly victimized** is not the same as **humbly suffering for Christ**.
 2.31.1. The scourging of a **battered wife**, an **abused employee**, or a **molested child** are not examples of biblical submission.
 2.31.2. There is a time to **claim our rights** as citizens of God's kingdom & defend ourselves.
 2.31.3. Even **slaves** in the OT were by law protected from physical abuse.
 2.31.3.1. **Ex.21:26,27** (they were set free if knocked out **tooth**, or damage eye)
- 2.32. **HOW WAS YOUR CITIZENSHIP OBTAINED?** (28-30)
 2.33. This would delay things for **2 years** in Caesarea (1 hearing after another).
 2.33.1. But God would work out **His will in His time!**
 2.33.2. And Paul was willing to **wait!**
- 2.34. **Country Citizenship!**
 2.35. **How to obtain citizenship?** – By Birth(from citizen parents); By Reward(for services):
 By Freedom(after slavery).
- 2.36. This **commander** was proud of his citizenship **by purchase**.
 2.36.1. Probably why he took **Claudius** as his 1st name (23:26) after Emperor.
 2.36.2. It was the **Emperor Claudius** who sold citizenships during his reign.
- 2.37. **Paul** received his **by birth** (don't know how he obtained this, but a great thing for a Jewish boy to inherit)
- 2.38. **U.S. Citizenship!**
 2.39. You were **born free** as an American citizen, protected by the **Constitution** and product of the **Declaration of Independence**. You were born free, but it came at a great price!

2.40. Heavenly Citizenship!

2.41. Though we obtain **our freedom in Christ** through repentance, forgiveness of sin and then allowing Jesus to live in our hearts, the ability to do so was purchased for us by the Lord and He paid a heavy price for our redemption.

2.42. **I bought mine!** – Works? Not possible.

2.43. **I got mine!** – New birth. Only way possible.

2.43.1. You must be born into it. You must be born a 2nd time!