

Chapter 1 : Christian Testimonies - True Stories of God at Work | Christian Faith

Everyone loves a good redemption story, but few people realize that real-life stories can be better than fiction. 10 Abdel Nasser Ould Ethmane Abdel Nasser Ould Ethmane was raised in a nomadic village in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, where slavery is the norm.

Why Did Jesus Have to Die? Roman, Jewish, and Christian Perspectives by Rev. Roberts and Beliefnet Note: You may download this resource at no cost, for personal use, for use in a Christian ministry, or for use in an educational venture, as long as you are not publishing it for sale. All I ask is that you give credit to this website: For all other uses, please contact me at mark markdroberts. Let me mention three. I do believe, however, that this evidence, both in the New Testament Gospels and in other ancient sources, is strong enough to allow us to formulate likely hypotheses concerning Roman and Jewish motivations for the crucifixion of Jesus. Second, the question of why Jesus was put to death is a matter of considerable scholarly disagreement. I should add at this point that I am aware of the shameful history of anti-Semitism and the danger of anti-Semitism that is very much alive today. This does make it tricky to deal with the historical evidence in a straightforward way, because if one concludes that some Jews were somewhat responsible for the death of Jesus, this might fuel anti-Semitic attitudes and actions. So, I will say at the outset that nothing in the historical record justifies hatred of or mistreatment of Jews, or any other people, for that matter. Third, there is not one, simple, obvious answer to the question of why Jesus had to die. From a historical point of view, we have to deal with at least two perspectives, Roman and Jewish. We also need to deal with the whole area of theology. It will have multiple layers and nuances. Nevertheless, this is a task well worth the effort, both in the writing and in the reading. This is especially true given the tendency of this conversation to become terribly anti-Semitic. In a world where hatred of Jews is on the increase, all thoughtful, compassionate human beings need to be informed about just who was responsible for the death of Jesus and why. Finally, if, like me, you believe that the crucifixion of Jesus stands at the very center of history, then knowing why Jesus had to die is just about the most important bit of knowledge you can have. Some Basic Facts Where should we start in our effort to discover why Jesus had to die? I propose to begin with some basic historical facts, facts that are affirmed by almost every historian and biblical scholar, even those who approach this question from a highly critical and skeptical starting point. So what are these facts: There were many ways in the first-century for a criminal to be put to death, including stoning, beheading, being torn apart by beasts, etc. Yet all the earliest sources attest to the crucifixion of Jesus. These sources include, in addition to the New Testament writings, the Jewish historian Josephus Antiquities Once again, this basic fact is confirmed in Josephus and Tacitus in addition to the New Testament. Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem on or near the Jewish feast of Passover. I propose to address this question from four different perspectives: Why did Pontius Pilate think Jesus had to die? Why did some Jewish leaders think Jesus had to die? Why did Jesus himself think that he had to die? Why did early Christians think Jesus had to die? The Roman Perspective, Part 1 The fact that Jesus was crucified rather than stoned, hanged, or killed in some other way means that the Romans were ultimately responsible for his death. Of course this is clear in the biblical gospels. But even if we lacked such primary sources, the simple fact that a man was crucified in Jerusalem around A. Jews in the first-century A. This horrible means of execution was the prerogative of the Romans, who used it with chilling effect. The Roman Practice of Crucifixion If we want to know why a Roman authority, in this case, the prefect Pontius Pilate, would choose to crucify someone, we might look first at the Roman practice of crucifixion in general. In fact, not all Roman convicts sentenced to death were crucified. Crucifixion was reserved for the lowest of the low, and most of all for those who openly opposed Roman power. Commit a serious crime and Rome might cut off your head; rebel against Roman rule or upset Roman peace and you might be headed to a cross. The Via Appia in Rome. When the slave Spartacus led a rebellion against Rome in B. They crucified 6, men, stringing them along the Via Appia for miles, from Rome to Capua. Why was crucifixion so horrible? For one thing, the victim experienced some of the most extreme pain that a person can experience and the duration of suffering often lasted several days. But, even beyond personal suffering, the crucified person experienced extreme

shame in a world that valued honor supremely. The Romans made every effort to crucify people in public places, such as along major thoroughfares. The point was to augment the dishonor and suffering of the one being killed, not to mention his family and colleagues. It seems, by the way, that the Romans did not crucify women. Thus the point of crucifixion was not only punishment, but also deterrence. Not surprisingly, the Romans crucified Jews when they rebelled against imperial rule. The Roman Perspective, Part 2 In my last post I began to examine the Roman practice of crucifixion, arguing that if we want to understand why a Roman governor had Jesus crucified, we should first understand why Rome used crucifixion in general. What we discovered was that crucifixion, in addition to being an extremely horrific punishment of criminals, was thought to be an effective deterrent against sedition. Crucifixion was cruel beyond cruel. Shortly after the death of Herod the Great in 4 B. When the rebels fled into the country, the Roman general Varus pursued them. The first-century Jewish historian Josephus describes what happened next: Upon this, Varus sent a part of his army into the country, to seek out those that had been the authors of the revolt; and when they were discovered, he punished some of them that were most guilty, and some he dismissed: Now that would surely give restless Jews second thoughts before challenging Roman tyranny again. Seven decades later, thousands upon thousands of Jews revolted against Roman rule. For a short time they appeared to have prevailed. But, once again, Rome sent a superior military force to Judea. Soon the Jews were trapped in Jerusalem, surrounded by the Roman army besieging the city. Recognizing their hopeless condition, some Jews actually tried to escape, but to no avail. This happened to at least people daily, according to Josephus. So disgusting was the mass torture of Jewish prisoners that even the Roman General Titus felt pity on them. But he let the brutality continue. To conclude what we have learned about Romans and crucifixion, Rome reserved crucifixion for the worst of criminals, especially for those who stirred up rebellion against the state. Because the point of crucifixion, beyond punishment, was deterrence, crosses were placed in public places so people would learn to fear the wrath of Rome. When Jews challenged Roman authority, they, like others rebels against Rome, were crucified if caught. But is this relevant of the case of Jesus? Did Jesus challenge Roman authority such that Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea in the time of Jesus, believed he must be crucified? Let me survey this evidence briefly. Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea from A. In this role he was ultimately responsible for all matters in Judea, including judicial and financial affairs. Pilate governed from the provincial capital of Judea, Caesarea Maritima , a city on the Mediterranean coast, about 75 miles northwest of Jerusalem. He would make the trip to Jerusalem only when necessary. Pilate was accountable to the governor of Syria, through whom he was ultimately subservient to the Roman Emperor. This inscription identifies Pontius Pilate as the [Praef]ectus Iuda[ae]. Pilate does not figure prominently in first-century Roman histories, a fact that suggests that he was a relatively insignificant leader. Not only was it potentially a dead-end job, but also it was fraught with complications. The complications had largely to do with what the Romans would see as the peculiarities and propensities of the Jews. The peculiarities were, by and large, Jewish religious sensibilities that put them at odds with Roman norms. Jews, for example, did not follow the Roman model in welcoming all sorts of gods into their pantheon. On the contrary, Jews would die for their belief in one and only one God. Jewish propensities had to do with general unrest and fairly regular attempts by some Jews to rebel against Roman rule. When one became prefect of Judea, one could expect trouble. Unlike previous governors, when Pilate took charge, he brought images of Caesar into Jerusalem in order to display them. This enraged the Jewish population, who took this as a violation of their law and as an insult. Multitudes of people traveled to Caesarea in order to ask Pilate to remove the images. At first he refused and, when the petitioners persisted, he was prepared to kill them. But when they showed themselves willing to die rather than have their laws violated, Pilate finally relented. The New Testament actually confirms this picture of a cruel Pilate. But it appears that, for some reason, Pilate killed some Galileans who had come to the Jerusalem temple in order to offer sacrifices to God. Yet, not only did Pilate have them killed, he also had their own blood mingled with the blood of the animals they had sacrificed. Talk about adding insult to injury! The first-century Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria once wrote a letter to Caesar, in which, among other things, he complained about the harshness of Pontius Pilate.

Chapter 2 : Redemption in the Bible: 7 Powerful Stories

The teacher had been arrested. Suddenly, though he was guilty of no crime, it was neither safe nor fashionable to be his apprentice. A crowd gathered and someone pointed to the student and noted he was a friend of the teacher.

But in life and in literature, they are most often blurred and intertwined. We seek justice in our understandings of family, community, nation, history, humanity and self – and we search for redemption in those places as well. Redemption is also often sought in contemplation of the natural world, the cosmos, and re-evaluations of our sense of self and spirit. High church, low church or no church, we all struggle with these questions and find common cause, if not peace, in knowing this of each other. Both justice and redemption also share the burdens of transgression, of wrongdoing and of evil. In either event, our humanity is relieved as we make judgments. Redemption, it seems, is possible. Writing my latest novel, *A Slant of Light*, gave me ample opportunity to consider these questions. Against a backdrop of the US civil war, I dug into the psyche of a man who has committed a double murder but seeks no escape from punishment, while others around him struggle to use the crimes to their own advantage. While justice may be a very rough-edged sword, redemption is a never-ending struggle with the nature of life. In a sense, I distrust the notion of justice; it seems mostly a matter of retribution; of punishment. Justice suggests an equilibrium restored, which is not possible. Redemption is, I think, beyond the law, and thus attainable by each person according to their own efforts and needs. Compiling this list led me to conclude that true justice is a rare bird in serious literature. Perhaps that explains the popularity of thrillers and mystery stories, where justice appears to end these tales, satisfying a need that is elusive in life, elusive in literature. But I had the great pleasure of rereading *Gilead* last summer and I find the Reverend John Ames to be one of the most interesting and engaging characters in modern literature. Robinson thinks deeply and carefully about redemptive matters of faith, family and history. *Taming the wilderness, hoodwinking the native people, growing rich by slavery* – even as he denies his own past and bloodlines, his secret mixed-race origins colliding with his own beliefs and those of his heirs. *A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented*. He employs the ancient devices of mistaken identity and misplaced heritage, but instead of playing them as a farce, this tale of rural poverty and landowners in 19th-century England is brutally tragic, as his heroine contends with an absolutely pitiless patriarchy. The result is tactile, satisfying and immensely disturbing. *In Our Time* by Ernest Hemingway With his first collection of short stories, and the landmark novels that followed it, Hemingway blew up traditional narrative with stark, unsparing and never decorative prose. *Big Two-Hearted River* may be the finest piece of fiction ever written about the experience of the veteran. Here, the character lives with the sense of a wholly unjust world, where redemption is a tatty flag best kept unwaved. A book, still, for our time. This verse novel offers a pure, dazzling love of language, capturing fleeting moments of the heart. Difficult to describe, a delight to read. Human justice and the trials toward redemption abound. *Divisadero* by Michael Ondaatje A family torn apart by love and violence, in three parts. A wonderful journey always toward redemption and not quite making it – perhaps. The three parts are separate but also connected. *Harvest* by Jim Crace An end-of-days fable about a remote English village being torn apart by the end of common ownership of land and the life that went with it. Its characters see a fearful future and the arrival of strangers, bringing with them a strange new life. Crace takes us far away – and uncomfortably close to where we are just now. The hero saves his people from a pair of monsters, and is a celebrated king who in old age is finally killed by a dragon in an epic battle. Glory in death is matched by immortality in art, in cycles and circles that are exhilarating to discover. Here, justice is by blood. The bird is finally untethered, allowing Macdonald to regain her own place on earth. As I came into the final quarter of this lovely, haunting book, I began to read in very small amounts, not wanting the story to end.

Chapter 3 : Story of Redemption Films | Welcome!

Let me chime in with an example in an unusual field: competitive gaming. Meet Alexey "Solo" Berezin Very quick context: DotA 2 is an online game where a team of 5 people go against another team of 5, each controlling a character (called "hero" in g.

Tweet The Bible is a book about redemption. God wants to communicate this story to us through His Word. He does this by giving us many smaller stories that illustrate the wonderful truth of the redemption provided through His Son, Jesus Christ. The concept is in the purchase of a slave. He is bought to be owned as property. Christ redeemed us in this sense so that we belong to Him. Another word translated redeemed means to buy something from something for another purpose. Again, we are purchased by Christ from the bondage of sin for the purpose of freedom in Him. The third word carries the idea of a purchase that pays off a debt. A price that is necessary to secure the freedom of someone or something. Christ paid our sin debt. As you read these redemption stories you can see one, two, or all three of these meanings in each of them. The Bible is full of stories about redemption. These are but a few.

Noah – Genesis One of the greatest stories of redemption in the Old Testament is the story of Noah. God warned of a coming judgment. This was going to be a world-wide punishment. Those who would repent of their sins and believe in the warnings of Noah were welcome to board the ark before the flood waters began to fall. After years of preaching the only people who stepped onto the ark were Noah and his family. Though there was room for many more people in the ark, only eight were saved. Redemption was offered to all who were willing to repent and believe. However, few accepted the offer. Throughout the whole process of going to the mountain to sacrifice, Isaac was obedient and Abraham was hopeful. Abraham fully expected to sacrifice his child on the altar, but he was also confident in the fact that God could raise his child from the dead. What Abraham did not expect was that God had a completely different plan in mind. Moments before Abraham thrust the knife into his child, God provided a sacrificial ram to take the place of Isaac. God redeemed Isaac with this ram. It is an example of how that God redeems us with the sacrifice of His Son.

Ruth – Ruth The book of Ruth teaches many lessons. But the overall story is one of redemption. A Hebrew family moved to a foreign land. Ruth married into this family; but, tragically, all the men died. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, move back to the land of Israel. Ruth then became the foreigner in a strange land. In an effort to provide for her mother-in-law, Ruth went to gather grain in the fields. She met the wealthy land owner where she had been working. This man, Boaz, happened to be a near kinsman to Naomi. But, there was another family member who was an even closer relative. As a close relative, the second man had the responsibility to care for Naomi and Ruth. He even possessed the right to marry the beautiful young lady. But he neither wanted the responsibility nor the right. Boaz approached the closer kinsman with the willingness to assume the responsibility for the family and the right to marry Ruth. The man accepted and Ruth joined Boaz in marriage. The Bible calls Boaz the kinsman redeemer. He bought the responsibility to care for the ladies and the right to marry Ruth.

Potter – Jeremiah At the house he saw the potter make a pot that was not quite to his liking. The potter pushed the malleable pot into a ball of clay once again. Then he proceeded to remake the pot into something better. God likened the pot to the people of Israel. He said that He was the potter. God told Jeremiah that as the maker and molder of the nation of Israel, God had the authority to shape the nation as He pleased. Like the potter, God lovingly molds His people into a vessel that He is proud to display.

Lost Sheep – Luke He started with the story of the lost sheep. But, one day while away from home, one of the sheep was lost. He secured the 99 sheep and went in search of the single lost sheep. He carried the lost sheep gently back to the Jesus said that the man went home and threw a feast in honor of the fact that his sheep was found – it was redeemed. There is rejoicing in heaven over their salvation. The ones who are religious and see no need in repentance and salvation will not be celebrated in heaven because they have not received the redemption provided by Christ.

Prodigal Son – Luke A rich man had two sons. One day the younger son went to his father and asked for his inheritance. He was leaving home. It is apparent that the boy did not have a good relationship with his father. Though his father loved him, the young man felt like he would be better off without the constraints of the family. After a time he ran out of

money. He had spent it all on entertainment and frivolity. Because of a famine in the land he was in an even more desperate situation. He went to work for a farmer feeding pigs. Eventually he was even eating with the pigs. The young man decided that it would be better to return to the house of his father as a servant than to starve away from home. When he neared his home he was met by his father. The father gladly welcomed him home, not as a servant, but as a son. A feast was made. A robe and a ring were given to the son to attest to his position in the family. Though he had gone away, his father accepted him back with no change in his status as a son. Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9: Saul knew very well who Jesus Christ was. But up until that time Saul did not believe that Jesus was the Redeemer promised by God. That day, on his way to capture Christians and take them to prison, Saul saw Jesus for who He really was. The man who had brought so much persecution to the early church was redeemed by the love of Christ. Saul was later known by the name Paul. This is the man who we call the Apostle Paul. He was responsible for spreading the true Gospel of Jesus throughout the known world in his time Your Favorite Redemption Story There are many more stories of redemption in the Bible. Leave a comment below and tell us about your favorite one. Want to read more about Saul of Tarsus? Take a look at this article, also written by David: Just click the button below to get started.

Chapter 4 : Best Movies About Redemption | List of Redemption Movies

During this time, the daily reading from The True Story Project reading plan will be read, discussed utilizing the SQUID approach, and there will also be a time of prayer. This is a great opportunity to gain greater understanding of how to use SQUID, connect with other people, and meet some of the leaders of Redemption Temple.

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. A drama is an activated story. The Bible was written so we could enter into its story. It is meant to be lived. All of us, without exception, live our lives as a drama. We are on stage every single day. What will we say? What will we do? According to which story will we live? If we are not answering these questions with the biblical script, we will follow another. The drama begins in the first pages of the book of Genesis with God already on the stage creating a world. He makes man and woman, Adam and Eve, and places them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. This is our vocation, our purpose as defined in the biblical story. Tension and conflict are introduced to the story when Adam and Eve decide to go their own way and seek their own wisdom. The disobedience of Adam and Eve “the introduction of sin into our world” is presented in the Bible as having devastating consequences. Humans were created for healthy, life-giving relationship: But now humanity must live with the fracturing of all these relations and with the resulting shame, brokenness, pain, loneliness and death. God narrows his focus and concentrates on one group of people. But the ultimate goal remains the same: He heals the sick and raises the dead. He overcomes the dark spiritual powers. Jesus renews the nation, rebuilding the twelve tribes of Israel around himself in a symbolic way. The resurrection of the dead comes through the new man, Jesus. God wants the victory of Jesus to spread to all the nations of the world. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. Forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God can now be announced to all. Following in the steps of Jesus, his followers proclaim this gospel in both word and deed. The power of this new, God-given life breaking into the world is meant to be shown by the real-world actions of the Christian community. The Bible is the story of the central struggle weaving its way through the history of the world. And now the story arrives at our own time, enveloping us in its drama. We are all invited to take up our own roles in this ongoing story of redemption and new creation. God himself is calling you to engage with his word. So the challenge of a decision confronts us. How will we fit into this story? What role will we play? God is inviting us to be part of his mission of re-creation “of bringing restoration, justice and forgiveness. We are to join in the task of making things new, to be a living sign of what is to come when the drama is complete. Here are three key steps to finding your place in the drama: Immerse Yourself in the Bible: The more you immerse yourself in the script of this drama, the better you will be able to find your own place in the story. Commit to Follow Jesus: May your life be a gift of beauty back to him. Which step are you choosing to take today?

Chapter 5 : Top 10 books about justice and redemption | Books | The Guardian

The Bible is a narrative, but even more precisely we can say the story of the Bible is a drama. The Books come together to tell God's true story and his plan to set the world right again. The Books come together to tell God's true story and his plan to set the world right again.

Tweet The young girl awoke scared and hungry on a cold, hardwood floor. After being torn away from the only parents she had ever known, she now found herself alone and chained to an old metal radiator. It was only the beginning. Six-year-old Carolyn would be trapped and forced to sustain abuse for three years at the hands of a supposedly brutal woman. The nearly unbelievable life of a child who faced insurmountable challenges started with what she says was a childhood filled with abuse, desperation and long-lasting scars, and has led to true redemption rooted in genuine faith. During the first years of her life, her paternal grandparents, George and Betty Shaw, raised her. But when she was 6, they lost custody of Rankin to a woman named Rose. The three abuse-ridden years that followed were truly scarring. After years of abuse, Rose eventually returned Rankin without reason to her grandparents. She had escaped the horrors she experienced living with her mother, but additional trauma and tragedy were in store. Back home with her grandparents, Rankin said she quickly realized that Betty Shaw had grown increasingly cold. The love that was once so very present from her grandmother had dramatically dissipated. Before long, Rankin was being sent to live with other relatives for various lengths of time. At one point, she stayed with her birth father, Art, but his sexual abuse of her only compounded the trauma, adding layers of pain and suffering that would haunt her well into her adult life. The two had a daughter, Audra, and experienced some joy, only to be followed by a great deal more of tragedy. I married him for all the wrong reasons. I remember the conversation like it was yesterday. Despite her personal problems, Rankin launched a successful career. Touched and impacted by what she went through as a child, she created her own nonprofit, Texas Child Search Inc. Rankin gained notoriety in Texas, where she was living at the time: Carolyn Rankin and her daughter, Audra Credit: I could never stop. I would follow every rat down every hole. But something happened that same year that permanently derailed her success and caused a public fall from grace so monumental that it landed her in tabloids across the nation. How She Ended Up in Prison While Rankin had become a media darling known for finding kids in need, little did she know that the pains of her own childhood were preparing to collide with her professional and personal life. Rankin panicked and had flashbacks of her own sexual abuse come rushing back. An intense rift grew between her and Larry as the walls of trust came tumbling down. It was the perfect storm. She contacted a hitman and made arrangements to have her husband, in her mind a child predator, murdered. But when they arrived at their hotel, Rankin was met by authorities and taken into custody. The arrest of the well-known child advocate accused of trying to have her husband killed became big news. Rankin said she did not take the money needed to pay for the hit, nor did she have a photograph of the intended target “ both of which were requested by the hitman upon her arrival in New Orleans. While she brushed him off at the time, she followed up with him the next year in her confused and desperate state and took him up on the offer. I was finding children. People would get upset and make calls. Regardless of how serious she was or how impeded her mental state at the time, Rankin pleaded guilty, having refused to testify against others who were involved, and landed in federal prison. With time to reflect behind bars, Rankin realized she had to forgive those who had wronged her “ Rose, Art, Betty and Larry. I had to put it all down at the foot of the cross. Her husband, Larry, stood by her side during the legal drama and her incarceration. Upon her release, they continued their lives together until he died in Today, Rankin is a strong Christian who believes God has transformed her heart and life. Carolyn, her husband Jim and her daughter Audra Credit: Carolyn Huebner Rankin After losing Larry, she married Jim Rankin, a man whom she had known during her early years living with her grandparents in Pennsylvania. Jim told TheBlaze his wife is an amazing woman. Both Carolyn and her husband praised their intensely close marriage. As for the demons that once haunted Carolyn, they are gone, and her work with Texas Child Search Inc. Carolyn also regularly shares her story with those willing to listen “ a journey from darkness to light that she hopes will inspire others who face similar struggles rise

above it all. The details and claims in this story have not been independently verified.

Chapter 6 : True Story Project “ Tempe

Brianna Barrier Engeler, Author/Editor Mississippi Comforts: True Stories of Redemption and Hope is a poignant reminder that family and friends are constant sources of joy, heartache, aggravation, and companionship.

Clancy Brown as Byron Hadley: The brutal captain of the prison guards [8] [9] Gil Bellows as Tommy Williams: A young convict imprisoned for burglary in [5] [10] James Whitmore as Brooks Hatlen: The elderly prison librarian, imprisoned since the early s [11] The cast also includes: But this description can also reference Lucifer, the bearer of light. Similarly, Norton projects an image of a Holy man, speaking down sanctimoniously to the servile masses while running corrupt scams, like those which made Nixon infamous. The location has been interpreted as a form of escape or paradise. Zihuatanejo has been interpreted as an analogue for heaven or paradise. Just as Andy can be interpreted as a Christ-like figure, he can be seen as a Zarathustra -like prophet offering escape through education and the experience of freedom. Robbins said that it is important that such a place exists for us. Morehouse suggests that the film provides a great illustration of how characters can be free, even in prison, or unfree, even in freedom, based on their outlooks on life. Andy displays resilience through rebellion, by playing music over the prison loudspeaker, and refusing to continue with the money laundering scam. In the prison theater, the inmates watch the film *Gilda* , but this scene was originally intended to feature *The Lost Weekend* The interchangeability of the films used in the prison theater suggests that it is the cinematic experience and not the subject which is key to the scene, allowing the men to escape the reality of their situation. Brooks, who in the novella is a minor character who dies in a retirement home, became a tragic character who eventually hanged himself. Darabont seriously considered the offer, citing growing up poor in Los Angeles, believing it would elevate his standing in the industry, and that *Castle Rock* could have contractually fired him and given the film to Reiner anyway. But, he chose to remain the director, saying in a *Variety* interview, "you can continue to defer your dreams in exchange for money and, you know, die without ever having done the thing you set out to do". To convince the studio that Gunton was right for the part, Darabont and producer Niki Marvin arranged for him to record a screen test on a day off from *Demolition Man*. They had a wig made for him as his head was shaved for his *Demolition Man* role. Gunton wanted to portray Norton with hair as this could then be grayed to convey his on-screen aging as the film progressed. Gunton performed his screen test with Robbins, which was filmed by Deakins. I remember having a bad moment with the director, had a few of those. For example, the scene where Andy first approaches Red to procure a rock hammer took nine hours to film, and featured Freeman throwing and catching a baseball with another inmate throughout it. The number of takes that were shot resulted in Freeman turning up to filming the following day with his arm in a sling. Freeman sometimes simply refused to do the additional takes. Robbins said that the long days were difficult. Darabont felt that making the film taught him a lot, "A director really needs to have an internal barometer to measure what any given actor needs. Darabont favored more scenic shots, while Deakins felt that not showing the outside of the prison added a sense of claustrophobia, and it meant that when a wide scenic shot was used, it had more impact. The interior of the boarding room used by Brooks and Red was in the administration building; exterior shots of the boarding house were taken elsewhere. Internal scenes in the prison cellblocks were filmed on a soundstage built inside a nearby shuttered Westinghouse Electric factory. The stream into which Robbins emerges was actually certified toxic by a chemist according to production designer Terence Marsh. So you will do things as an actor that are compromising to your physical health and safety. Glotzer insisted on including the scene of Red and Andy reuniting in Zihuatanejo. She said Darabont felt this was a "commercial, sappy" ending, but Glotzer wanted the audience to see them together. Darabont agreed to include the scene after seeing the test audience reactions, saying: He felt that it already elicited such strong emotions without music that he found it difficult to compose one that would elevate scenes without distracting from them. The piece was initially written for a solo oboe, until Newman reluctantly agreed to add harmonica”a reference to the harmonica Red receives from Andy to continue his message of hope. According to Darabont, harmonica player Tommy Morgan "casually delivered something dead-on perfect on the first take", and this is heard in the finished film. These

were described as "through the roof", and Glotzer said they were some of the best she had seen. Following a Hollywood tradition of visiting different theaters on opening night to see the audiences view their film live, Darabont and Glotzer went to the Cinerama Dome , but found no one there. Glotzer claimed that the pair actually sold two tickets outside the theater with the promise that if the buyers did not like the film, they could ask Castle Rock for a refund. A general audience trend towards action films starring the likes of Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger was also considered to work against the commercial success of The Shawshank Redemption. It went on to become one of the top rented films of the year. The film began airing regularly on the network in June It was in the top 15 percent of movies among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 on the Spike , Up , SundanceTV , and Lifetime channels. Despite its mainly male cast it was the most watched movie on the female-targeted OWN network. Jeff Baker, then-executive vice president and general manager of Warner Bros.

Chapter 7 : The Shawshank Redemption - Wikipedia

In many ways, Carolyn Huebner Rankin's story of personal anguish, incarceration and redemption started when she was a child in that cold, dingy room. Her personal recollections, codified in her book " Falling Through Ice," reads like riveting fiction " but she says her story is very real.

I really had no conscience whatsoever," Jeff tells The Club. It was about making as much money as I could possibly make. It kind of centered around money; the more money I could get, the more successful I felt or I could make myself look to others. I was spending thousands of dollars a week at these clubs, vying for this fake attention from these young ladies. Within a short period of time, that lifestyle little by little became real to me. I had to have this attention. It made me feel important. I felt like I was important to somebody. Within a year I had 19 web sites. In two years I sold my whole program for 2. He began taking the drug ecstasy to get him through the days and nights. I knew I was destroying lives at this point. It caught up to me mentally that what I was doing was just disastrous, not only just for the models that worked for me, but for people in general. I knew something was going to have to give, but I stuck to it, and this drug kept me happy. As much as I had people around me, I was so completely alone. I had many nights just by myself just alone. She also asked for ecstasy for some friends and herself. Finally Jeff said yes. It cleared me out, and it left me sitting in this big house looking around wondering what just happened to me. I was severely depressed. Everyone had abandoned me. I went upstairs, grabbed a bottle of vodka and Vicodin. I took all of them, drank the fifth of vodka and I should have died. I just so desperately wanted someone to reach out to me, and I was alone. That night at camp they gave an altar call. Jeff was one of the first to come. He prayed and asked God to forgive his sins and give him a new start. There was no redemptive values for me at all. Within a few days, he had moved in with the pastor and his family. They wrapped their arms around me and loved me and took care of me beyond what I could even possibly imagine. That was confirmation that grace was real. Before long, he noticed something different. It was always a different one. It was just like I was being washed from the inside out. My mind was being purified, and all those images were going away. It completely washed my mind. He used the time to study the Bible and pray. After his release he used his Internet development skills and started a new website Godbeat. I was a drug-addicted, alcoholic pornographer that ruined millions of lives. He loves me in spite of my mess. The things He can do and the restoration He can make blows my mind still. God has made it possible for you to know Him and experience an amazing change in your own life. Discover how you can find peace with God.

Chapter 8 : 10 Incredible Real-Life Stories Of Redemption - Listverse

An Amazing Story of Redemption and Restoration Back to Changed Lives Archives Jeff grew up in the church, but during high school his dad died suddenly of a heart attack.

Share Shares Everyone loves a good redemption story, but few people realize that real-life stories can be better than fiction. For his seventh birthday, he received his first slave, which was as normal to him as picking out a toy or a new bike. Soon, he became an avid reader with an interest in world history and found out that other countries had outlawed slavery long ago. Gradually, he came to realize that slavery was wrong. But publicly challenging the status quo in Mauritania would have gotten him arrested and possibly killed. So as a teenager, Ethmane began arranging private discussion groups on slavery. Eventually, he founded SOS Slaves , an international organization dedicated to ending slavery. But since leaving in , Phelps-Alvarez has publicly apologized to the family of a dead soldier whose funeral she picketed. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison, released on bail, and told to await orders on when to show up to serve his time. The orders never came. Due to a clerical error, Anderson never went to prison. But instead of using his freedom to commit more crimes, Anderson started his own construction business, became a youth football coach, and volunteered at his local church. He also got married, had three children, and became a well-liked member of his community. Thirteen years later, the state discovered their error and put Anderson behind bars for nearly one year. As the case received international coverage, an online petition for his release gained more than 35, signatures. After a court hearing that lasted a mere 10 minutes, the judge conceded that Anderson was a changed man and granted him credit for the years he should have been in prison. A teary-eyed Anderson walked out of the courthouse with his wife and daughter, telling reporters that he was grateful to God. He convinced himself that his research was worth it and that he was gaining valuable scientific insights. But after a lack of employment opportunities left him jobless, Slusher became vegan and crowdfunded his memoir , They All Had Eyes: Confessions of a Vivisectionist. Although the medical field has benefited from animal models in the past, They All Had Eyes contains recent data showing that the practice is outdated as well as cruel. It also does more harm than good for both humans and animals. At 18, Meeink was convicted of kidnapping rival gang members at gunpoint and filming their beatings and torture. During his three years behind bars, Meeink befriended inmates of different races and even joined a prison football league with African-American teammates. So when a Jewish doctor offered to remove his neo-Nazi tattoos, he agreed. Since then, Meeink has become a motivational speaker and released a memoir called Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead. His life was the basis for the film American History X. This happened with Faustin Ntiranyibagira. He also encouraged his friends at the local bar to beat their wives because he believed there was no better way to run a household. Then he started attending community development meetings with the relief agency CARE. There, he learned about nonviolent conflict resolution and came to see the value in an equal partnership with his wife. So he stopped beating her, began helping her with household chores, and collaborated with her when it came to finances. Now Ntiranyibagira arranges public meetings to speak out against domestic violence and teach his male friends to treat their wives better. His message is one of peace, nonviolence, and gender equality. Munera grew up in Medellin, Colombia, where his father took him to his first bullfight at four years old. He made up his mind to become a bullfighter at 12 and began his career at the Medellin Fair at Soon, he became aware of the cruelty of the sport. After killing a pregnant cow and watching in horror as the fetus was extracted, he was ready to quit. But he pressed on, encouraged by fame and fortune, until he was gored by a bull and paralyzed. Munera traveled to the US for physical therapy and decided to attend college there. Having moved to a country which was largely against bullfighting, he faced hostility from doctors, nurses, and other disabled people, all of whom told him that he deserved to be paralyzed. Since then, he has become an animal rights activist. Then trainers at the Miami Seaquarium captured five wild dolphins to star in the show. Since , however, he has devoted his life to fighting against it. This tragedy made him realize that imprisoning these intelligent creatures and making them perform stunts for human entertainment was wrong. The organization also campaigns against dolphin hunts in countries like Japan and the Solomon Islands. It seemed like suicide

to him. Over the course of 17 years, Givens executed 62 inmates—a process that involved praying with them, preparing their last meals, shaving their heads, and administering their lethal injection or deadly dose of electricity. Feeling guilty for his actions on some level, Givens kept his occupation a secret from his family. This included his wife, who thought he was a prison guard. In , Givens was arrested for buying a car with drug money and convicted of money laundering and perjury. Givens, who maintains his innocence, spent four years in prison. He emerged a vocal opponent of the death penalty , having realized that some of the men he executed could have been innocent. Givens is now a member of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. He has given speeches nationwide about his experiences and testified at legislative hearings about bills on capital punishment. He was also known as General Butt Naked because he often went into battle wearing only shoes. This Liberian warlord admitted to recruiting child soldiers as young as nine years old, sacrificing babies to ensure divine protection in battle, slitting open the bellies of pregnant women, chopping off limbs of peaceful villagers, and eating human hearts. He estimates that he has killed at least 20, people. But at some point, Blahyi had a religious epiphany. Due to the lack of a stable legal system in Liberia, Blahyi has never been charged for his crimes. Sarah is a blogger, painter, freelance journalist, poet, short story writer, and aspiring novelist. Follow her on Twitter.

Chapter 9 : The Best of Him (A True Story of Redemption) - Matt Bays

The Bible is a book about redemption. God wants to communicate this story to us through His Word. He does this by giving us many smaller stories that illustrate the wonderful truth of the redemption provided through His Son, Jesus Christ. There are at least three words in the Bible which are.

We long to see neighborhoods filled with Christ-like ambassadors of friendship and gospel proclamation. We long to see every industry filled with the faithful witness of excellent work that contributes to the common good. We long to see families as launch pads for worship and mission. And we long to see every issue of public life engaged with wisdom and vision that comes from a Biblical worldview. Therefore, we are launching a project to lead the whole church to read through the whole Bible for a whole year. Our hope is that this will saturate our community in the only story that can give meaning to all of life, and shape a community based on Gospel-infused love. The True Story The Bible is the true story of the whole world. Historically, when the church has understood the nature of the story and how to live within it, she has initiated some of the most life-giving movements and institutions the world has seen: However, when Christians have misunderstood, distorted, or chosen to live within a false and idolatrous story, we have misused the Bible to endorse things like slavery, domestic violence, apartheid, genocide, etc. The Word of God is the True Story of the whole world. Join us as we immerse ourselves in this True Story as a whole church through the whole Bible for a whole year. Welcome to The True Story Project. We have partnered with The Bible Project to provide you a plan that takes you through the entire bible in one year. The scriptures are divided up into sixteen sections and organized in semi-chronological order. Along with a reading plan for adults, you will also find a reading plan for children through the Jesus Storybook Bible. Rather than an in-depth study of the Psalm, we encourage you to slowly pray through it, making its words your own. You will also find theme videos relating to several topics that appear throughout Scripture. Therefore our Redemption Communities small groups will be focused on discussing and responding to what we read in the Bible Reading Plan. Email add link to get connected to a Redemption Community. Visit our table in the lobby to find good books and resources. A dynamic conversation about The True Story Project answering questions from the Bible and reflecting on the implications for All of Life. True Story resource list: For a full and updated list of resources, please visit the True Story area of our website: The aim is to provide some helpful patterns of Bible engagement to help you encounter the living God by intentionally listening to His word. Just as a dinner table is only as meaningful as the meals shared around it, this approach to reading scripture is only valuable in so far as it contributes to a relational encounter with God. Consider this method as calamari on the table as you feast with God. What questions do you have about this part of the Story? Imagine how the original audience would have understood what God was revealing. What are the implications for all of life? How is God inviting you to respond? There are many ways to summarize the text. For example, you could: Summarize this section in your own words Make an outline with bullet points Draw a diagram Artistic Expression: Feel free to be as simple or creative as you like while summarizing this part of the Story. Seek to answer some of these questions as you prayerfully read scripture and use the resources in your study Bible. Therefore, if you are in a small group, bring the questions up for the group to prayerfully discuss together. Imagine how the original audience would have understood what God was revealing to them. The Bible was written in a different historical time, place, language, and culture. Rather than immediately applying scripture to your life, spend some time trying to imagine how the original audience would have understood these words. To understand why this part of the story originally written. How does this text point to Jesus and his Kingdom? Once you have a sense of what God was doing in the original context, reflect on the implications for life today. Many people tend to only apply the Bible to their individual life, but the Bible is the True Story of the whole world, and gives us a lens through which to view every aspect of life. Take a few moments to prayerfully reflect on the implications for the various domains of life. Here are a few categories to think through: