



A Better Story

FCCNH 2022 ELDER MEDITATIONS

5 DECEMBER 2022

Jon Butler

My Grandpa Mel was a storyteller. He had a story for everything, and he seemed to remember more about his life and experiences than anyone I have ever met. He would share his stories with anyone who would listen because it was his way of sharing himself. These stories taught me a lot about my grandpa while also allowing me to take away important lessons or bits of family history from them. They were good stories.

Like any good storyteller, he told many of the same stories a lot. His stories became just as much a part of my memory of him as did my actual experiences with him. We recently lost Grandpa, and I realized we would never hear him tell his stories again, and I was saddened about this. However, I also realized that while my grandpa may be gone, his stories are not, and their importance and meaning will continue to live on, so long as I continue to tell them. And, as I tell them, the stories are no longer just his, they are mine too, as they have become a part of me because he is a part of who I am. I will continue to tell our stories because they are good stories.

I feel the same way about the story of Jesus' birth (and, frankly, all the stories about Jesus' life). We tell this same story every year, and we do this because it is a part of us. Our story as Christians started with Jesus' birth, and as we share this story, it becomes just as much our story as His. As long as we continue to share this story, it will live forever; and, the more people we share it with, the more people who can be part of this story.

It is a story of a miracle. It is a story of perseverance. It is a story of hope. It's a good story. Who will you share it with this Advent season?