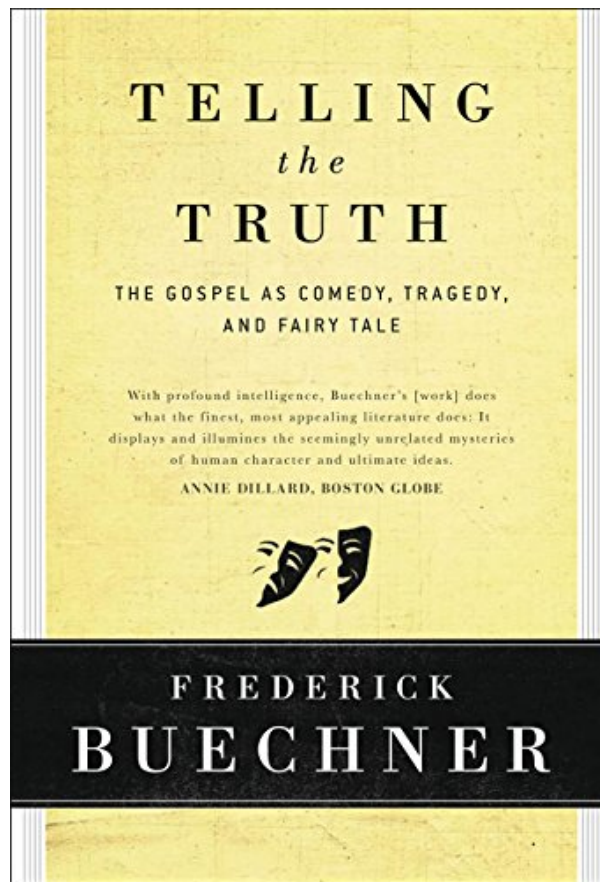
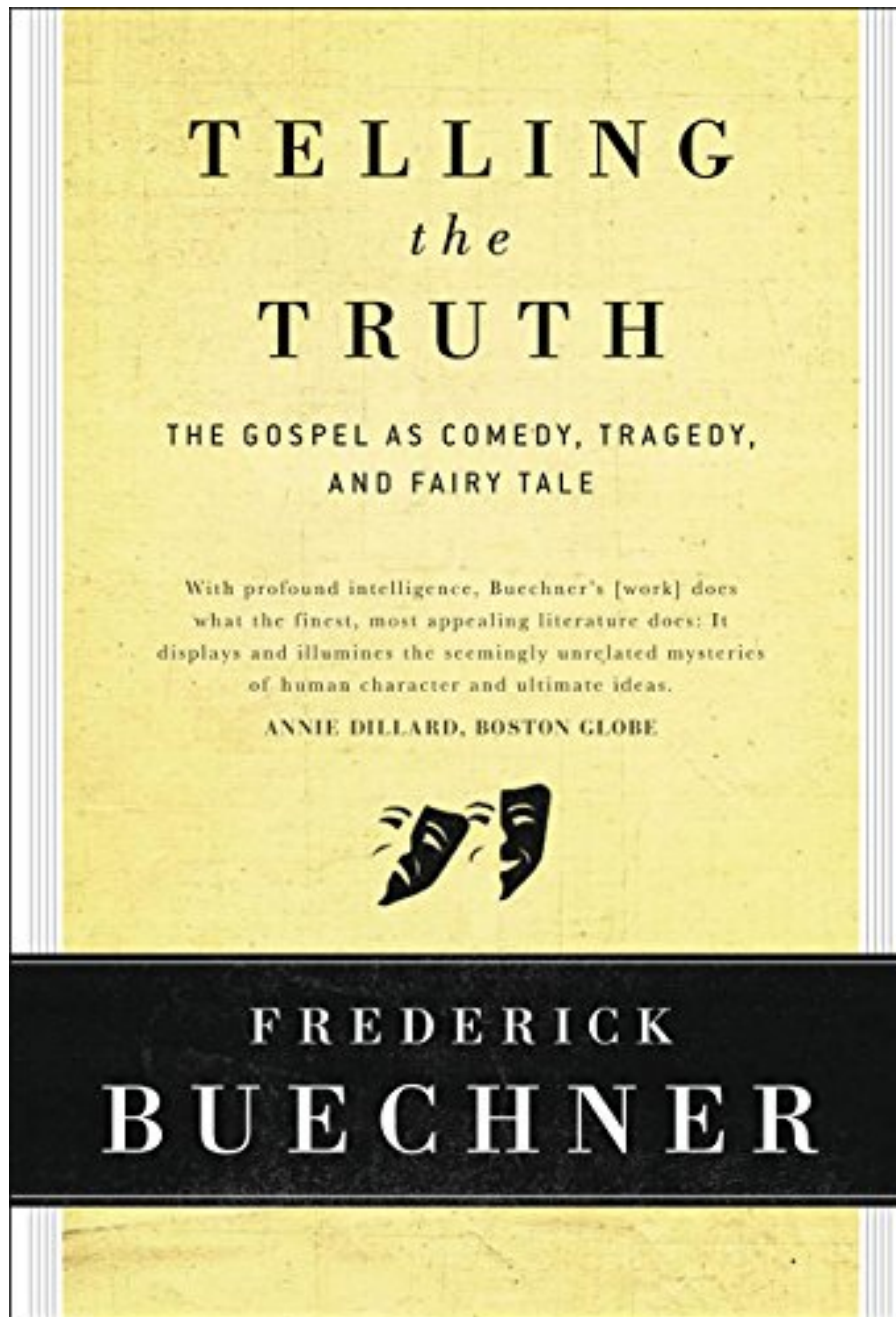


TELLING THE TRUTH: THE GOSPEL AS TRAGEDY, COMEDY, AND FAIRY TALE BY FREDERICK BUECHNER



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Amazon.com Review

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- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .53" w x 5.50" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 112 pages

Amazon.com Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

39 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

A Must Read ... and Re-Read

By Nathan G. Brown

Frederick Buechner's 'Telling the Truth' is one of those little books, so packed with great things, it needs repeated reading. Not that it is difficult to read, it is just full of huge ideas and grand truth.

Buechner revisits various aspects of the gospel. But his first challenge to the reader is to confront the silence of truth. Using as an example the silence of Jesus in response to Pilate's question "What is truth?", Buechner suggests truth may not be far from the ordinariness of our everyday lives - if only we would pause to realise.

'Telling the Truth' uses the recurring picture of a preacher getting up to preach. Buechner describes in detail the scene in the church, the congregation who have come to the church for so many different reasons and the inadequacies the preacher feels but, as the preacher lays out his notes "like a riverboat gambler, the stakes have never been higher."

'Telling the Truth' considers the gospel as "tragedy, comedy and fairy tale" in turn and ultimately Buechner finds the gospel "a tale that is too good not to be true."

If you only read one book each year, make it 'Telling the Truth' this year - and next year.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

A Guide to Christian Preaching

By NYJ

"The Gospel is bad news before it is good news. It is the news that man is a sinner... That is the tragedy. But it is also the news that he is loved anyway, cherished, forgiven.... That is the comedy.... In answer, the news of the Gospel is that extraordinary things happen to him just as in fairy tales extraordinary things happen."

And that is the basis for Frederick Buechner's book. That as evangelists we need to remember that the Bible is more than just a book, it starts as tragedy, it becomes so outrageous to be comedic and then amongst it all, God loves us so much that it's a fairy tale. And as with all fairy tales, that all who accept the outcome, the ending is happy. And we must keep all those things in mind. And preach the Bible with love.

Frederick Buechner uses a number of "secular" works to illustrate his points. He points to the tragedy of "King Lear" by Shakespeare, he goes over the fairy tale of C.S Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz".

To illustrate the comedy of the Bible, he turns to the Bible itself, going over the promise of God to Abraham and Sarah about the birth of Isaac, and how they laughed... the idea seemed so preposterous. And it does seem preposterous in a way, the promises of the Bible... so outrageous as to be almost impossible to believe. And that is why the Bible turns out to be fairy tale, because what is "too good to be true" isn't. It happens, and it happens to us.

Buechner writes with colorful prose, but you won't get lost in the verbiage and his meaning will come out crystal clear. He conveys to us a message that speaks to us and tells us to speak the Word with urgency, and do it emphatically, colorfully, just as the Bible is colorful itself. Do it with compassion, do it with love and do it with inspiration.

"Let the preacher tell the truth. Let him make audible the silence of the news of the world with the sound turned off so that in that silence we can hear the tragic truth of the Gospel, which is that the world where God is absent is a dark and echoing emptiness; and the comic truth of the Gospel, which is into the depths of his absence that God makes himself present in such unlikely ways and to such unlikely people... you and I laugh till the tears run down our cheeks. And finally let him preach this overwhelming of tragedy by comedy, of darkness by light, of the ordinary by the extraordinary, as the tale that is too good not to be true because to dismiss it as untrue is to dismiss along with it the catch of the breath, that beat and lifting of the heart near to or even accompanied by tears, which I believe is the deepest intuition of truth that we have."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Outside of the Box

By Deb Rhodes

Buechner has long been one of my favorite spiritual writers. This book doesn't disappoint; it speaks about the gospel in a way that is outside of the box and quite inspiring.

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