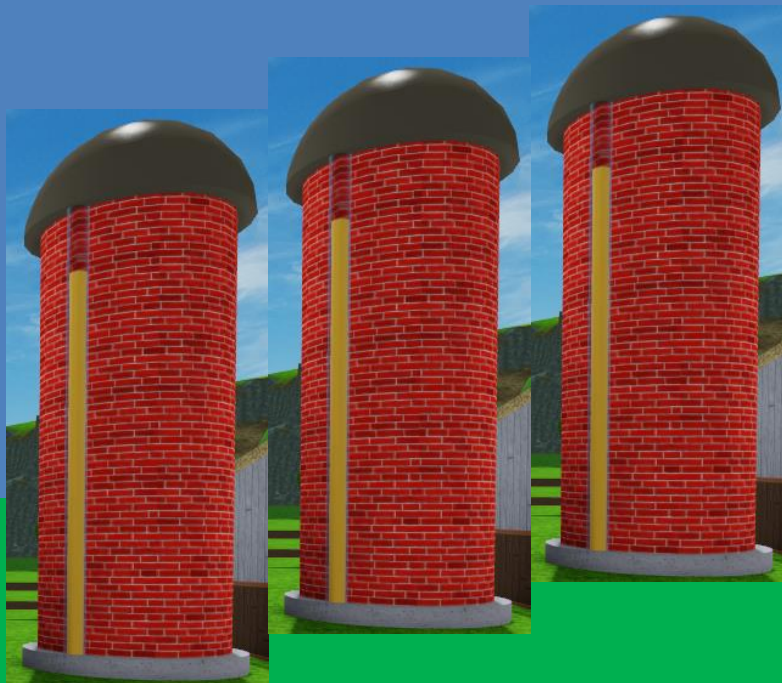


The Loose Change Gospel

A Tale of

3

Silos



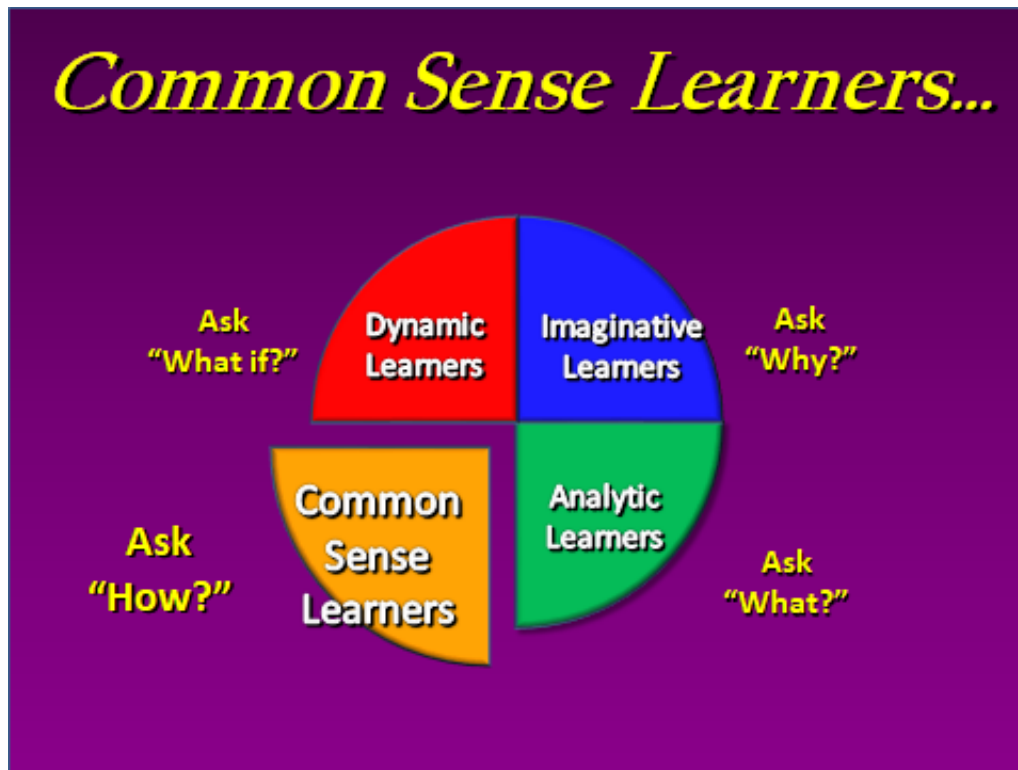
By Kathy J Peterson

Hello, friends! My name is **Kathy Peterson**. I'm a member of the **Loose Change Gospel Band** and the author of *A Tale of 3 Silos*.

I'll tell you right up front that this is a God story, and one that I've written especially for **Common Sense Learners...**



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Teachers will tell you that Common Sense Learners are those students who are always asking, "How?" "How is that possible?" "How can they do that?" "How does that work?"

While others might be asking "Why?" questions, or "What?" questions, or "What if?" questions, Common Sense Learners just want to know "How?"



One characteristic of Common Sense Learners is that they have a hard time believing anything that doesn't make sense to them - even when (maybe I should say, even especially when) they're hearing it from the so-called experts.

I have to confess that I'm a Common Sense Learner myself... and I can relate to that very real hesitancy to believe things that I just don't understand.

“So... how does that work?”



I also confess that I'm a lifelong follower of Jesus. That's been a little problematic for me, because a lot of the things He did and said are truly hard for me to understand.

I make a terrible evangelist, because I can't force myself to just repeat talking points about Jesus written by others – maybe especially those written by the experts – that just don't make sense to me.

“So... how does that work?”



For ten years I stood on the Gospel Stage at the Omak Stampede with the Loose Change Gospel Band, and struggled to find words I genuinely believed, that I could share with folks in the crowd about becoming a follower of Jesus.

It's been a real frustration for me, because I really, really long for people to follow Him.

The 2020 Pandemic Year



But during the 2020 Year of the Pandemic – a year in which the Omak Stampede was cancelled – I had lots of time to think about how I could explain the Gospel to myself and others.

And so I set out to write what I would call “*The Loose Change Gospel...*”

The Loose Change Gospel



As I prepared to write, I reminded myself that the Gospel means “Good News” – and the Good News is the story of God’s relentless intention to reverse the effects of evil in the world. God is laser focused on restoring His once beautiful creation.

And I knew that the answers to the “How?” questions in my story would unavoidably swirl around the Person of Jesus, and His role in God’s great restoration work.

After months and months of alone-time reflection, God dropped into my mind a very simple picture...



... and this is it...

This is The Loose Change Gospel in a picture I've entitled
"A Tale of 3 Silos."

It isn't deep theology - it's just a picture that makes sense to me.

A Tale of 3 Silos



The silos in the picture are like the ones you see on a farm.

The farmer sows seed in his field. And then he reaps his crop. And then he stores his harvest in silos.

That's the sequence: Sowing - Reaping - Storing...

A very simple concept: You reap what you sow.

A Tale of 3 Silos



The 3 silos in the Loose Change Gospel picture represent another kind of sowing and reaping and storing.

They represent the accumulated consequences of our wrongdoing - the long-term results of the harm that we've done to ourselves, to others, and to God's good and beautiful creation.

The Bible calls our wrongdoing "sin." And sin has absolutely vandalized God's beautiful creation.

The picture says there are consequences for our sin: "You reap what you sow."

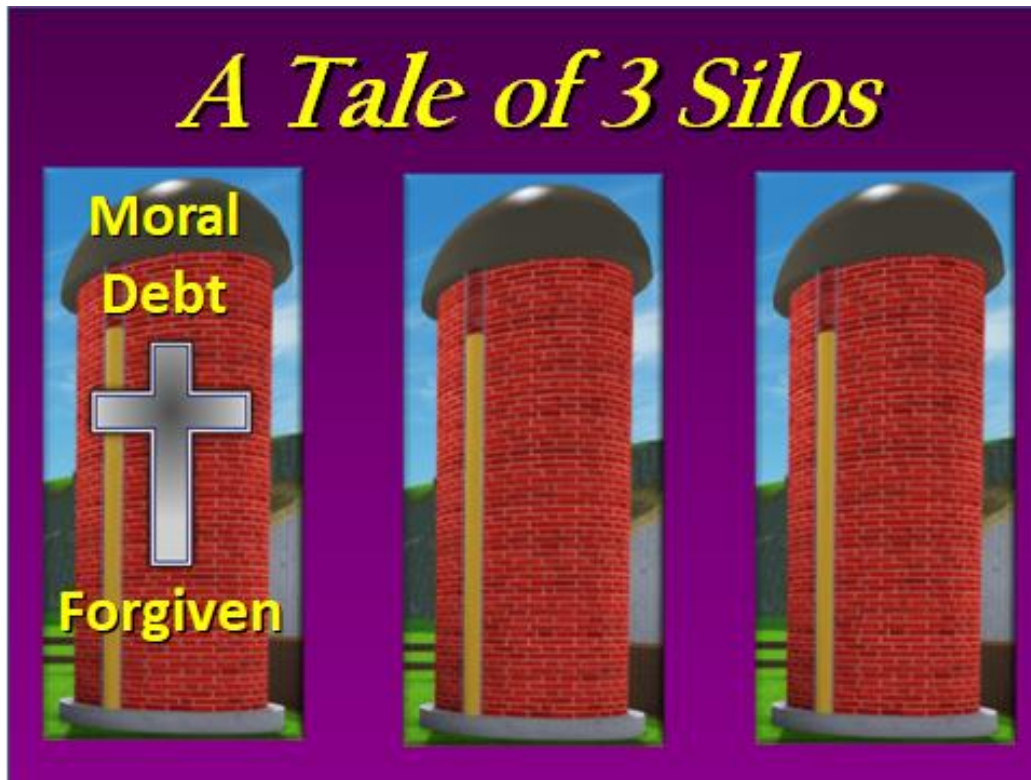


But the Bible is also very clear that the Gospel – the Good News – is **NOT** about reaping what we’ve sown, or getting what we deserve.

It’s actually just the opposite

The Gospel is about God’s great love, and His offer to deliver us from the consequences of our sin....

...Unimaginably costly to Him, but offered freely to each of us.



The first silo explains that our sins are, above all, an offense against God that incurs a moral debt for which we're personally responsible. Only God can forgive this kind of debt.

The cross in the picture explains that Christ's death is the means by which He offers total and utter forgiveness of our debt. This is one of the greatest mysteries of all. I know I'm not the only one asking, "So... how does that work?"

I don't pretend to understand it - for all my studying. But during my Pandemic reflections, a quiet voice inside my mind said, "Kathy, leave room for the mystery."

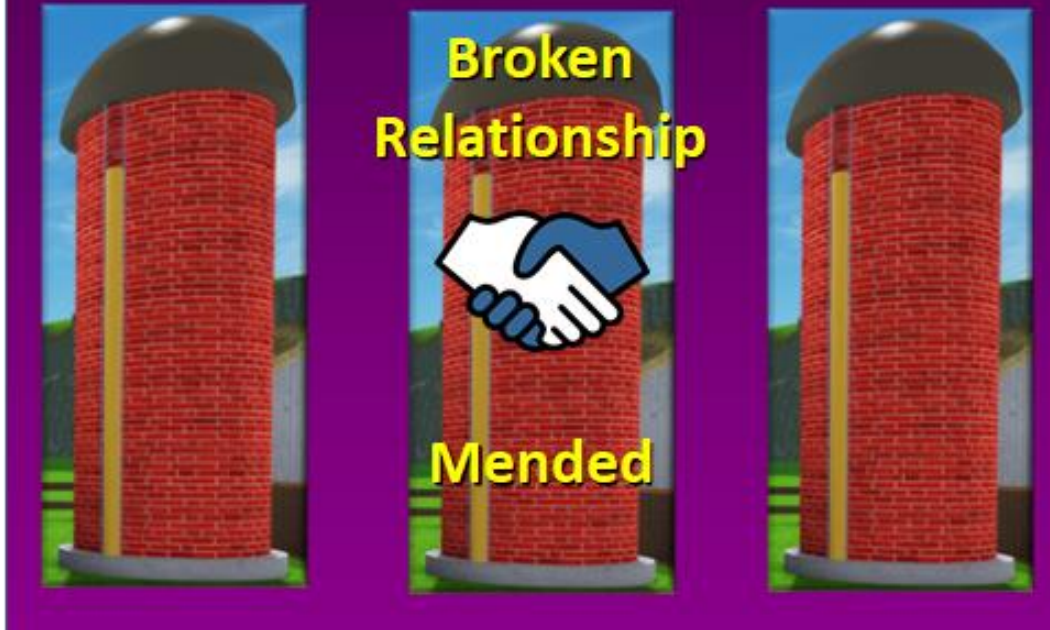
In that moment, it made sense to me that there are some aspects of the Gospel that are clearly unexplainable.

There's a bluegrass song that says, "Let the mystery be."

What I *can* understand is that, for each of us, our role in Silo #1 is to believe this very simple message: "Christ died for my sin."

My role is to stop trying to somehow pay for my sins myself - to stop trying to earn God's favor by my good deeds - and instead to entrust my spiritual well-being to this truth: That through Christ's death my moral debt has been *totally* and *utterly* forgiven!

A Tale of 3 Silos



The second silo explains that sin has broken our relationship with God.

And the handshake explains that God has taken the initiative to reach out and mend it. He invites each of us into a place of personal relationship with Him as His sons and daughters.

For each of us, our role in Silo #2 is to intentionally respond to God's invitation and draw near to Him. While it's true that God is an invisible spiritual being, it's also true that we too are spiritual beings, with the capacity and

actually a deep inner longing to commune with Him -
Spirit to spirit.

God asks that we yield to His leadership as our Father, and
that we cultivate an intimate relationship with Him by
regularly spending time with Him in prayer and worship.

A Tale of 3 Silos



The third silo explains that the result of long-term habitual sin in an individual's life is a corrupted character. We end up with a damaged conscience that no longer guides us to do right; a weakened will that can't resist temptation; a hardened, unloving, selfish heart – and a general attraction to the dark side.

The heart in the picture explains that God offers us a new nature – and such a radical internal transformation that Jesus referred to it as being “born again.” In dealing with Silo #3, God's Spirit actually takes up residence within a person, and gives them the power to experience real and lasting life change.

Our role in this transformation is one that some folks really struggle with; God calls on each of us to willingly give up ownership of our life, and allow God's Spirit to be in charge as we cultivate our new lifestyle.



I've learned from creating this Gospel picture that it isn't just a snapshot of a moment in time, when I might have "prayed the prayer" to ask Jesus into my heart.

The fact is that the Tale of 3 Silos is a lifelong story of a personal relationship with God – and a lifestyle increasingly characterized by giving and receiving forgiveness, and reaching out to mend relationships when I can, and seeking every day to become less like my old self and more like Jesus as His indwelling Spirit enables me to do so.

One thing I like about this picture is that I can remember it. I can close my eyes, and still see it. All through the day, I can think about it - and use it to better understand what God might be doing in my life and the lives of those around me.

But best of all, it's enabling me to do something I've wanted to do all of my life - and that is to share the Gospel with you...



I hope that in this picture you'll see a sweet blend of that which is both understandable and unexplainably mysterious about the love of God that will make sense to you.

I invite you - no, actually I *urge* you - to write yourself into the script. Make this your own God story....

Receive His forgiveness. Enter into relationship with Him. And allow Him to bring about the life change you've been longing for.



Kathy Peterson

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Thanks for taking the time to read my story, friends... I hope you'll shoot me an email if you have questions or want to talk about this further. I'd really love to hear from you.

Take care,

Kathy

Email: chapelkathyp@gmail.com

Listen to "A Tale of 3 Silos" on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_Ewzh2Pyl8