

**The Story Series
Agency, Part 2
08/13/22
Newport News**

Opening

-House work anniversary...8

-(update on Haiti and Niger)

-(show The Story Slide)

-(show our slide for tonight)

-(plan to finish series by the end of August)

-(thank Spenser and Jennifer)

Introduction/Recap

-Agency is the sense of control that you feel in your life, your capacity to influence your own thoughts and behavior, and have faith in your ability to handle a wide range of tasks and situations. Your sense of agency helps you to be psychologically stable, yet flexible in the face of conflict or change...the ability to take action or to choose what action to take.

-We looked at agency in Eden...

-We looked at how God Himself has agency...

-We looked at thieves of agency...

-The agency I have is part of my Imago Dei...I resemble my Creator because like Him, I have agency.

(sacred: racism, human trafficking, misogyny...violate sacred agency)

-tonight I want to give 3 agency myths I didn't have time to address last week but then connect this to "eternal death" which is one of the key parts of diagram.

Agency Myths

-Hebrews 10:24 (God's sovereignty/His agency & our freewill/our agency)

-The MYTH that agency should be unchecked.

-Whenever we use our capacity for "agency" to rebel against God's sovereignty, our "agency" is ultimately diminished.

-Genesis 3:1-6 (they are now less free)

-The MYTH that agency should elevate my best interest.

-Being a disciple of Jesus requires us to sometimes use our agency to sacrifice our interests to serve the interest of others...even those we consider to be our enemies.

-Matthew 5:39-42

-Mark 15:21-22 (multi-cultural: generational/ethnicity/global)

-The MYTH that agency should determine my pronouns. (remember my opening remarks last week?)

-Agency is given to me by God not to serve my inclinations but rather to govern them.

-(orientation at UVA and the pronoun name tag...should have put "me and mine")

-(book Embodied)

-(talk about gender assigned at birth by God and gender determines my sexuality)

-You have to decide what you will believe about Scripture

1. Inspired (God-breathed)
2. Authoritative
3. Infallible

-Book The Touchpoint

Eternal Death

-Fred, what could agency possibly have to do with Eternal Death?

-(show diagram)

-Romans 6:23

-Eternal death (what the Bible describes as “hell”) is God acquiescing to our agency.

-Jeremiah 1:4-5

- God knows you (our deepest desire)
- God set you apart (our greatest value)
- God appointed you (our highest purpose)

• (show part of diagram that deals with the chasm)

-If I use my agency to reject everything that God offers me, including a relationship with Him, hell becomes my only alternative. Hell is an eternal death because I am choosing an existence void of God and without the possibility of ever again knowing Him or being known by Him.

-Luke 16:19-31 (is it a parable, don't think so, no other parable names characters...true story)

(The notes online at the end have an exhaustive list with definitions of all the terms the Bible uses that we translate as “hell” in both the Old and New Testaments.)

-10 descriptions of Hell

- 1. destruction - Matthew 10:28**
- 2. fiery furnace - Matthew 13:42**
- 3. unquenchable fire - Matthew 3:12**
- 4. weeping and gnashing of teeth - Matthew 13:41-42**
- 5. place of no rest - Revelation 14:11**
- 6. condemnation - Matthew 12:36-37**
- 7. separation from God - 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**
- 8. outer darkness - Matthew 8:12**
- 9. lake of burning sulfur - Revelation 19:20**
- 10. eternal suffering - Matthew 25:46**

Band

-I am an immortal, eternal being created by God to live and rule and reign with Him forever.

-How will you use your agency?

Close

Hell In Scripture

-Four terms the Bible uses for Hell (New Testament Greek Lexicon)

- Hades (hah-dace, NT, 12)
 - The Abode of Death
 - an emphasis on A Kingdom/Realm (personal interpretation)
- Gehenna (gae-en-na, NT, 10)
 - The Place of Punishment
 - an emphasis on suffering (personal interpretation)
 - named after the Valley of Hinnon that was south of Jerusalem where trash, waste, and dead animals were burned
- Tartaros (tar-ta-rus, NT, 1)
 - The Place of Punishment
 - an emphasis on suffering (personal interpretation)
 - a subterranean region regarded by the ancient Greeks as the abode of wicked dead where they suffered for their evil deeds
- Sheol (sheh-ole, OT, 66)
 - The Grave or Unseen State
 - an emphasis on both a realm and suffering

The Hell of Gehenna

- judgment (Luke 12:5) (Hebrews 9:27)
- a place of suffering (never dulling) (Mark 9:43)
- seeing behavior (Matthew 23:15)
- tempts us here (James 3:6)

The Hell of Hades

- organized force (Matthew 16:18)
- subject to God's (Revelation 6:8) (the devil has deceived himself...)
- consciousness (Luke 16:23-24)
- permanent eternity (Matthew 25:46, Revelation 14:11)

The Hell of Tartaros

- a sober reminder (2 Peter 2:4)

The Hell of Sheol (*The Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon*)

- no return (Job 7:9)
- without praise (Psalm 6:5)
- describes degradation (Proverbs 5:5, 7:27)
- emotional exile (Jonah 2:2)