

The Story Series
Agency
08/06/22
Newport News

Opening (Happy Birthday Celeste)

-(update on Haiti and Niger)

-(show The Story Slide)

-(show our slide for tonight)

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

Introduction

-(later in the message...some controversial topics)

-Hebrews 10:24

- Different from Matthew 5:38-40
- Love as “agape” means “character” (I believe)
- So when you see “love” it’s the 24 virtues
- “good works” is always the fruit of “good character”

-City Life is a culture of Hebrews 10 provocation.

Agency

-Genesis 2:1-9 (give commentary as reading)

-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.

(Agency is different from free will in that free will speaks to my opportunity to make decisions without God’s controlling influence. Agency speaks to the authority I choose to exercise because of free will.)

-Agency in Eden

-God isn't just introducing Adam to creation...introducing Adam to himself!

- Genesis 2:15
- Genesis 2:19
- Genesis 2:22-24
- Genesis 2:25

-Is the term "agency" applicable to God?

- Isaiah 40:25-31
- Psalm 115:3

-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)

Agency Thieves

-What are some ways we voluntarily give up agency, in a healthy way?

- Workplace
- Military
- Marriage
- Parenting
- Air travel
- Church

-thieves of agency

- **Proverbs 22:7 (debt)**
- **Proverbs 22:24-25 (bad relationships)**
- **Proverbs 5:22 (sinful desires)**

-Our past trauma is also a cruel thief of agency.

- Jennifer Terrance
- Spenser Bosch

Agency Myths

-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

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

-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. God-breathed
2. Authoritative
3. Infallible

-Book The Touchpoint

Band

-Luke 4:14-21

- Notice the language...it’s “agency” language
- Will you use the agency you have been given to accept the freedom that Christ offers...