

Changing the Story Line: Repentance, Holy Spirit, & Happiness

I. Same Event, Different Results

Imagine for a moment that you walk into a bank. There are 50 other people in the bank. A robber walks in and fires his weapon once. You are shot in the right arm.

Now if you were honestly describing this event to your friends and coworkers the next day, do you describe it as lucky or unlucky?

About 70 percent claim it is a supremely unfortunate event; the other 30 percent claim to have been very fortunate indeed.

“People who are in the **unfortunate group** say something like the following:

“I could have walked into any bank, at any time. This kind of thing almost never happens. How unlucky is it that I happened to be there? And that I was shot?!”

“There’s a bullet in my arm; that’s objectively unfortunate.”

“I entered the bank perfectly healthy and I left in an ambulance. I don’t know about you, but that’s not my idea of a good time.”

My all-time favorite response, which I’ve actually heard more than once (and always from someone on Wall Street): “There were at least fifty other people in the bank. Surely someone deserved getting shot more than I did.” (With a response like that, I’m not sure that’s true.)

These people cannot understand how a typical bank errand turned gunshot wound could be **construed as fortunate**. But then they hear the other side’s explanations of the same event:

But then they hear the other side’s explanations of the same event:

“I could have been shot somewhere far worse than my arm. I could have died. **I feel incredibly fortunate.**”

“It’s amazing that **nobody else got hurt**. There were at least 50 other people in the bank, including children. It’s unbelievably lucky that everybody lived to tell the tale.”

Even though the responses differ dramatically, the point is that **every brain in the room does the exact same thing**. It invents—and that’s an important word—a “counterfact.”

A **counterfact** is an alternate scenario our brains create to help us evaluate and make sense of what really happened

Seeing Life Through Love’s Eyes

Matt 4:17 ESV From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matt 5:3 “**Blessed** are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:11 NKJ “**Blessed** are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12 Rejoice** and be **exceedingly glad**, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

TWO STORY LINES:

“It’s not that bad, **things will get better.**” HOPE

“It’s really bad and it’s never going to change.” DESPAIR

Students, athletes, people recovering from surgery outperformed expectations when they adopted an optimistic story line.

There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind

JOSEPH – Story line. Pit, Potiphar’s House, Prison, Exalted.

Gen 39:2 ESV The LORD was **with Joseph**, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

Gen 39:21 ESV But the LORD was **with Joseph** and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Matt 28:18 ESV And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **20** ... And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

MOSES – 40 years as a failure & fugitive

You are **never too old** to set another goal or dream a new dream.

JACOB – Great Loss ...

Gen 48:11 ESV And Israel said to Joseph, “**I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.**”

*Turned out **Better** than Expected*

DAVID –

ISAIAH – Hope in a hopeless age

Isa 43:18 ESV “Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will **make a way in the wilderness**
and **rivers in the desert.**

II. Changing Our Story Line

Repentance = Renewing our mind.

2 Cor 5:17 ESV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

A **counterfact** is an alternate scenario

1. God is Love. Living in Love is Pure Holiness!

1 John 4:16 NIV And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever **lives** in love **lives** in God, and God in him.

2. Love Eliminates Fear (ekballo)

1 John 4:18 There is **no fear in love.** But **perfect love drives out fear**

Fear is TEMPORARY LIMITED DISTORTION of REALITY

Love is the Holy Place of Infinite Possibilities & Internal Abundance

3. In Him (in Love) We Are Surrounded By Infinite Solutions

Mark 9:23 ESV And Jesus said... **All things are possible for one who believes.**

Mark 10:27 ESV Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For **all things are possible with God.**" (with Love)

III. Changing the Experience – You are LOVED

1. Foundation — God Loves Me and Takes Care of Me!

Ps 23:1 ESV The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.**

This is the **key element** of Happiness... **the capacity to BE Loved**

Gal 5.22 ESV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, ...

To PERCEIVE Love, Abundance, Opportunity, a New Beginning overflows in Joyful Optimism!

REPENT -- the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand.

Two shoe salesmen who were sent to Africa in the early 1900s to assess opportunities. They wired separate telegrams back to their boss. One read: "Situation hopeless. They don't wear shoes." The other read: "Glorious opportunity! They don't have any shoes yet."

John 15.11 ESV These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy may be in you**, and that your **joy may be full.**

12 "This is my commandment, that you **love** one another **as I have loved you**.

"Beloved" is a synonym of happy, in fact, it is really the foundation.

CHANGING OUR STORY LINE! A Objective REALITY.

2 Cor 5.17 ESV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

CHANGING OUR STORY LINE! New Internal Source

Eph 5.18 NIV Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be **filled with the Spirit**.

Rom 15.13 NIV May the **God of hope fill** you with **all** joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are **full of goodness, complete in knowledge** and competent to instruct one another.

CHANGING OUR STORY LINE! New Results.

Gal 5.22 ESV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ministry Time: Filled with the Spirit

Love is the Holy Place of Infinite Possibilities & Internal Abundance

