



The Story of Your Life
Genesis 39
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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The Bottom Line: When faced with a choice, ask, “What is the story I want to tell?” Can you still tell your whole story?

Introduction: Throughout our lives, decisions are forced upon us that we did not sign up for. We are faced with options that represent paths that will take us in very different directions. And, we can’t have it both ways.

These can be defining moments. We don’t always know what hangs in the balance, and decision-making can be so emotional.

Therefore, in this series, I want to give you four questions to ask when faced with the surprise decisions of life.

Last Week: Am I being completely honest with myself?

This Week: What story do I want to tell?

Every decision you make and its outcome becomes part of your story.

Here’s why this is so difficult: In the moment of decision, we see choices, not stories.

Here’s what is true of all of us: Eventually, you would like to be able to tell your entire story. You don’t want to skip chapters. You don’t want to have to lie. You already know what that feels like.

So, when making a decision, ask, “What story do I want to tell?”

Note: The more emotional the decision-making environment, the harder it is to keep this in mind.

Joseph’s Story (Genesis 39-40)

Joseph models a powerful thing: He rehearses his story aloud and realizes how odd it would be to add in an illicit sexual affair.

What’s your story going to be, Joseph?

- A. God gave me an opportunity. Potiphar trusted me, and I took advantage of that and slept with his wife.
- OR
- B. God gave me an opportunity. Potiphar trusted me, and I was proved trustworthy because I refused his wife’s advances.

What story do you want to tell?

This question is broader than a moment. This is a question to ask throughout a season.

Conclusion:

Every decision and the outcomes of those decisions become a permanent part of your story. When you tell this part of your story, what story do you want to tell?

You get to decide. You are writing your story going forward.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Genesis 39:9c.**
- Memorize: Question #2.**
- When Faced with a Decision, Answer Question #2 Out Loud.**
- Come Back Next Week for Question #3.**