

START – June 4, 2017 Pastor Shannon Chapman

In this series, 7 Summer Decision. Every week we will collectively be challenged to make a decision. This series is fundamentally based on the power of choices.

A Better Tomorrow Starts Today

James 4:14, How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog--it's here a little while, then it's gone.

• We tend to overestimate what we can accomplish <u>tomorrow</u> and underestimate what we can accomplish <u>today</u>.

What's your Story?

Romans 8:28, And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

• We have to find and embrace the <u>redemptive</u> thread in our stories.

Psalms 139:13-16, Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.

• No, matter how desperate, uncertain, afraid, or stuck you may feel right now your story is not over!

Overnight Success?

- Behind every story there is another story.
- Let's consider the life of Daniel.
- Over time Daniel, by being consistent in his duties, the king decided to put him over his entire kingdom.

Daniel 6:4-5, At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally, these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

• The opposition had to find a way to get him and they knew it had to be with his faith in God.

Daniel 6:6-7, So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

- It's the things that no one sees that result in the things that everyone wants.
- Was Daniel an overnight success? No Way!

From this Day Forward

- The simple question is what discipline do I need to START practicing to head towards the story God wants for my life.
- The best way to find a meaningful framework for where you need to start is to pursue an eternal perspective.

Hebrews 12:2, Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...

First Summer Decision

Today, I	make the	decision to	start	<u>.</u>
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