



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: God is the greatest Author, let Him write your story.

Nehemiah 1:1-11

“I was cupbearer to the King”

This week’s sermon focuses on the viewpoint of Nehemiah looking back across the years as he wrote the Book of Nehemiah. In retrospect, Nehemiah says, “I was cupbearer to the King.” What Nehemiah’s station in life is at the time of this writing is unknown but suffice it to say that God had taken him far from just being a cupbearer. At some point in the future when we look back over the years of our life what will the answer to this statement be? Will we be able to interchange “I was” with “I am” because we have never allowed God to work in our lives or will we be able to look back as Nehemiah did and make a pronouncement of the wondrous changes God has made in our lives?

- Remember what it meant for Nehemiah to be a cupbearer. Do you think that this is often the condition we are in when God first starts to work in our lives? Think of some examples in your own life.
- Nehemiah is proof positive we can be comfortable no matter what our lot in life is by not being fully aware of the danger we are in. As a cupbearer, Nehemiah was in a constant danger of being killed but he was not only content to stay but oblivious to the plight of his own people as well. Relate this to your life prior to and after being saved.
- Contentment can be the enemy to the will of God. When we are content we will often be reluctant to hear the call of God even when we are called to greater things. Why?



Day 2

Sermon Sentence: God is the greatest Author, let Him write your story.

Jonah 1:17

2 Samuel 11:4

Our life as an autobiography.

Do we want to write our own story or do we want God to write it. If Jonah had continued to write his own story it would have went like this. "I was fish food!" Now of course Jonah ended up being much more that that but only after he submitted to the will of God in his life. As for King David, if he had continued on the path as in the scripture above he would have had this to write. "I was an adulterer and a murderer!" The Bible story is full of examples of the mighty men of God moving between faith and self in a battle of wills but only when they submit do they finally realize the great things God has in store for their lives. In the end Jonah could say that he was a prophet and saved many from destruction and David could say that he was a man after God's own heart!

- What are your thoughts on the two Biblical examples above and the difference between when they moved in their own will compared to when they submitted to the will of God for their lives?
- Can you think of some other Biblical examples of the same type?
- Can you relate to a time in your life when you struggled against a calling or something you felt you were being led towards? What was the result? Why did you fight against it?
- Relate to a time in your life when you submitted to a clear calling from God. What was the result?



Day 3

Sermon Sentence: God is the greatest Author, let Him write your story.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Proverbs 1:24-25

Our life when we don't move at all.

Sometimes in our lives we get stuck. We can get too comfortable in our life, in our jobs and in our professions. We can get spiritually stuck too, reaching a place where we either think we know everything and there is nothing left to learn or we get hopelessly confused and quit trying. In any case the problem is when we stop progressing or moving forward we get stagnant. When we get mired into the daily routines of life we can get to the point when we no longer hear or want to hear God telling us He wants to bring change into our lives. Not moving at all is just as dangerous to the story as us trying to be in full control because this too is a form of resistance to the will of God.

- Have you ever felt “stuck” in your life of spiritual growth? Did you feel that you were being called to do more but just couldn't move? What was or is holding you back?
- Have you ever been so content with your current situation that you preferred to remain as is even though you knew that God was calling you to change? What did you do?
- If we resist God's authorship in our lives what are some of the results? Will the plans of God move forward with or without us?
- Why do we often choose the things of the world over the will of God even though we know that the will of God is always better? What can we do to change this?



Day 4

Sermon Sentence: God is the greatest Author, let Him write your story.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Proverbs 1:24-25

Our life when God is holding the pen!

Jonah: “I was a prophet!” (Jonah 3:1-5)

David: “I was a king!” (2 Samuel 5)

Moses: “I was the voice of God to the Israelites!” (Exodus 4:16)

Abraham: “I was the father of many nations!” (Genesis 17:4)

Joshua: “I was the leader that led them into the promised land!” (Joshua 3)

Every one of the men listed above were just like us. They doubted and at time they ran from the will of God but eventually the story they told was because they ultimately surrendered to His will for them. They sinned, they were unworthy and even woefully unqualified but none of these things hampered God from using them in mighty ways for His glory!

- What are your thoughts on the Biblical characters and their stories above? Can you relate to the times in their lives when they were writing their own story and times when God was?
- What do you think about the story of your life? Is God writing more or are you writing more? What changes would you like to make?
- In each case above, the outcome of the story was drastically different because they allowed God control of their lives. What do you think God is doing in your life? Are you allowing Him or resisting?

Sermon 4:

I WAS A _____.



Day 5

Sermon Sentence: God is the greatest Author, let Him write your story.

Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 19:21

Romans 8:28

Life Application: A testimony does not focus so much on the past as it does the change that God brought about.

Ponder each of these areas of your life and who is writing your story.

→ **Personal**

→ **Professional**

→ **Family**

- Who is really writing your story?
- What is the point of your life?
- What is your next step and what do you need to do to take it?