

DIVINE DIRECTION! (WEEK 2)

Scripture used: [Hebrews 11:24 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the second week of our series Divine Direction! These sermons explore the question “How do I live my life guided and directed by God?” We try to answer this question by looking at the life of Moses, in particular a series of decisions that he had to make to fulfill his part of God’s story. This week we also celebrate the legacy of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life is an example of a God-directed story.

KEY POINTS

- 1) ***We shape the meaning and ending of our story by our choices.*** The choices we make every day shape our own story. This is especially true in terms of our relationship with God. We have to choose a central role for Him in our lives, and this allows God to shape our lives to align with his plan and purpose. When we struggle with God, we will have tension in our story; we are being pulled by God toward a new story, one that helps fulfill His plan to redeem the world.
 - a. ***We cannot dumb down in order to fit in.*** We may be a part of a group that doesn’t try hard in school, works too much, engages in risky behavior, breaks the law, or criticizes God. The temptation is to fit in, and we have to resist it.
 - b. ***We cannot be defined by past events.*** When wounded or hurt, we tend to cling to these memories. Over time this kind of trauma can lead to resenting God. We forget that God Himself became flesh and suffered through the worst torture, all for our sakes. His love and power allows us to trust that God is able to redeem even the worst tragedies, if we allow Him.
- 2) ***Pursuing our story within God’s larger story requires faith.*** Moses was born to slaves then found himself third in line for the throne. We read in [Acts 7:22 \(NLT\)](#) how Moses was taught Egyptian ways, and was “powerful in both speech and action.” Despite this privileged life, he realized that his story was much bigger than being an Egyptian prince. Moses was meant to be a liberator, not an oppressor! That meant giving up everything: his status, his wealth, and his friends. Hebrews 11:24 (NIV) describes his first step: refusing “to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” Moses could not have done this without faith. That’s why each story in Hebrews Chapter 11 begins with “by faith”.
- 3) ***God will use our story to His glory.*** The parents of Moses were slaves. According to the world, they were unnamed, overlooked, and insignificant people. And yet their son became one of the most important people in history. God used Moses to create a more just world, just as He used Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both Scripture and the network of churches across the American South were critical tools in the civil rights crusade of the 1950s and 1960s.
 - a. ***The work of justice in the world is God’s work, and it should be done by God’s people.*** Followers of Jesus do not make judgments based on race, age, occupation, or socioeconomic status. We know that God uses us all. History can be rewritten by the lowliest people, if they are living the story that God intended for them.
- 4) ***Prepare to face earth adversity for the sake of divine triumph.*** Moses spent years in the desert before he was called by God to return to Egypt and free the Jews. Then he wandered in the desert for 40 years, trying to manage the 12 tribes before dying outside the Promised Land. Dr. King went from the height of his popularity in 1963 to being isolated from many of his former friends. Why? Because God was whispering to Dr. King that he needed to protest the injustice of the Vietnam War. Everyone knew this decision would cost him dearly, but Dr. King wanted his legacy to be one of service. He knew that meant he would make unpopular decisions. But it was part of God’s eternal story, so it was worth it.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** – Moses was born to slaves, became a prince, and then gave it all up based on faith. Dr. King did the same thing, publicly protesting an unjust war despite the social, political, and financial costs. Think about your own story. How would you describe it to someone you didn’t already know?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** – In what part of your life do you feel the most tension or anxiety? Where can you hear God whispering to you, helping direct you to a new story?
- 3) **DO** – Pastor Hurmon challenged each of us to choose part of our story that God is trying to change and then proclaim “By faith, I will stop _____!”