



Pay Attention to Your Story

*2 Corinthians 10:3–6; John 14;
Matthew 7:24; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20*

The Bottom Line: Pay attention to your narratives.

Introduction:

Isn't it strange how we have conversations with ourselves? So often the conversation goes, "I really should, or I really shouldn't. I ought to, or I better not."

Why does this or that happen? We impose a reason on randomness. We create a narrative to make sense of things.

We create and often abide by our self-imposed narratives whether they're accurate or not. This can be a problem. It can lead to you becoming your own worst enemy.

Review:

I'm sure you've all met someone who made a huge mess of their life. They undermined their own success, marriage, career, or even health.

And, you thought, "I would never let that happen to me," but the truth is you certainly have the potential to because after all ...

You have **participated** in **all** your bad decisions.

A single bad decision is always the first step toward **becoming your own worst enemy**.

Every habit begins with a first time.

Every pattern starts with a first line.

Every journey begins with a first step.

In this series, I'm giving you three preemptive habits to overcome your own worst enemy. Last week, I gave you habit number one:

Preemptive Habit #1: Pay **attention** to the **tension**.

This week is habit number two:

Preemptive Habit #2: Pay **attention** to your **narratives**.

Tension:

Remember your high school narrative related to your mom and dad? Remember how dumb and uncool they were? Then, when you got to your thirties, you thought they suddenly got smarter and not so uncool. You had a narrative about school too, “It’s such a waste of time.” We still have narratives.

So many of our narratives are irrational. Narratives create **excuses**. Narratives create **justifications**.

They empower us to avoid things we should **NOT** avoid.

They empower us to embrace things we should **NOT** embrace.

They fuel pride, racism, prejudice, and fear.

Truth:

After the apostle Paul became a Jesus-follower, he decided God’s call on his life was to go into gentile parts of the world and explain that God had done something for the whole world.

Part of his challenge was attempting to convince people in pagan cultures to embrace a completely different value system that was introduced by Jesus. It meant they would have to let go of their old worldview and embrace a new one.

He writes a letter to Christians living in Corinth.

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

We are to wage war on **flawed conclusion** based on **false assumptions**.

Read: John 14:8-9.

Jesus was saying: Do you want to know what God is like? Watch me, listen to me, and follow me.

Read: John 9:5.

The world is broken. God redeems broken things. You matter to God. The you beside you right now matters to God. The you you can’t stand matters to God!

Read: Matthew 7:24.

If you don't, you can become your own worst enemy.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:6.

God is talking to you, not someone else.

What happens when you hold your narratives up against John 3:16?

Did you know God loves that person you have a narrative against?

What happens when you hold your narratives up against 1 Corinthians 6:19-20?

Conclusion:

Pay attention to your narratives. They may not be as right and righteous as you think they are. BOTH sides of the political isle can and do have false assumptions about the other.

Application:

Jesus followers must apply the following verse to their life:

2 Corinthians 10:5, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Because of this verse, true Jesus followers must make this commitment ...

Commitment #2: I will demolish every narrative that conflicts with the value system introduced by Jesus.

This is what it looks like to follow Jesus.

It's to embrace his view, values, and vision for the world.

It's to repeal and replace the views and values we've grown up with and are so comfortable with, and in the end, following Jesus will make your life better.

When we follow Jesus, we make the world a better place.

When you follow Jesus, it will keep you from becoming your own worst enemy.

Preemptive Habit #2: Pay attention to your narratives.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Matthew 7:24
- Hold Your Narrative Up to the Light of Jesus.
- Take Every Thought Captive and Make Them Obedient to Christ.
- Pay attention to your narratives.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?

4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....