

Making Life Make Sense

(Acts 17:16-28)

- I. How do I make my life make sense?
 - A. The narrative void. (Acts 17:16-28; Psalm 139:13-16)
 - B. Who is writing our stories?
 - C. God wants us to take the reins of our own story.
- II. The Characters in Every Story – Donald Miller
 - A. The Victim: The character who feels like there's no way out.
 - B. The Villain: The character who is responsible for ruining the story.
Many people choose the victim and villain role as a coping mechanism.
 - C. The Hero: The character who saves the day. Heroes are simply those who accept the challenges that happened to them, choose to be transformed, and decide to help others.
 - D. The Guide: The character who helps the hero.
 - E. When we say...
 1. "There's no way out"; we become the victim.
 2. "That person is an idiot"; we become the villain.
 3. "I accept this challenge"; we become the hero.
 4. "I'll help someone else"; we become a guide.
 - F. We choose the character we want to be.
- III. Making My Story Make Sense – Narrative Traction
 - A. We need vision of a better future for ourselves and others.
(Proverbs 29:18)
 - B. We need to be connected with a community who are committed to the same vision. (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
 - C. We need to be willing to engage and redeem every conflict that challenges the vision. (Romans 8:28)
- IV. Applicational Questions
 - A. What compelling thing am I trying to bring into the world?
 - B. Who am I doing it with?
 - C. How will I respond to the inevitable conflict?