

STORIES: BEFORE & AFTER... NUMBERS 11:1-10

Thoughts:

1. We all have and tell stories!

I love stories!

I tell them also!

I also seek them out:

- Tell me your story
- Tell me your story about. . .

2. A story that includes many stories!

3. A story (stories) that explains thing / explains the ways things are!

We must have a story that makes sense.

How many stories do I tell?

USMC → USN 1975

Great Lakes or Memphis Naval Hospital...or Beaufort???

4. A story (stories) that may | may not be true...or accurate!

Numbers 11:4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? **Numbers 11:5** We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: **Numbers 11:6** But now our soul is dried away: there is **nothing at all**, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Exodus 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

Exodus 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **Exodus 2:25** And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

My first response:

My second response: We are not necessarily good at remembering the past in any way.
What???

4 kids, same family, same Mom & Dad...

We always remember things from our perspective.

We almost always see & remember ourselves as good.

Unless we have had a reckoning and continual reckonings!

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: **Acts 13:39** And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, **as** we forgive our debtors.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 130:3 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? **Psalm 130:4** But there is forgiveness with thee, That thou mayest be feared.

5. A story (stories) that is of necessity **selective!**

We cannot tell the whole story!

If we did – we would need to take the same amount of time it took to live it.

This is a place where growth can begin!

We tell:

- **This**
- **This & not that**
- **This often**
- **That never**
- **This more than that**
- **This because we don't remember that**

6. A story (stories) that is of necessity **slanted!**

Perspectival!

- **From your vantage point**
- **From your memories**
- **From your interactions**
- **From your personality**
- **From your total memories**

Which are always forming, informing, and reforming your very memories!

- **From your built-in-desire to be the good / right**

7. A story (stories) we tell **ourselves and others!**

We have to tell our story – at least to ourselves!

8. A story that **must become:**

- **God-centered**
- **Reality-oriented**
- **Sin-sensitive**
- **Salvation | grace-grounded**

Nelly Brown:

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **Galatians 1:16** To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Genesis 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. **Genesis 45:2** And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. **Genesis 45:3** And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. **Genesis 45:4** And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. **And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Genesis 45:5** Now therefore be **not** grieved, **nor** angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: **for God did send me before you to preserve life. Genesis 45:6** For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. **Genesis 45:7** And **God sent me before you** to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **Genesis 45:8** So now it was **not you that sent me hither, but God:** and **he hath made me** a father to Pharaoh, **and lord** of all his house, **and a ruler** throughout all the land of Egypt. **Genesis 45:9** Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, **God hath made me** lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

Joshua 21:45 There failed **not** ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; **all came to pass.**

Joshua 23:14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that **not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.**

Joshua 24:1 And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. **Joshua 24:2** And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. **Joshua 24:3** **And I took** your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, **and led** him throughout all the land of Canaan, **and multiplied** his seed, **and gave** him Isaac. **Joshua 24:4** **And I gave** unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. **Joshua 24:5** **I sent Moses also and Aaron,** and **I plagued Egypt,** according to that which I did among them: **and afterward I brought you out. Joshua 24:6** **And I brought** your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea. **Joshua 24:7** And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season. **Joshua 24:8** **And I brought you** into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: **and I gave them** into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you. **Joshua 24:9** Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you: **Joshua 24:10** **But I would not hearken unto Balaam;** therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand. **Joshua 24:11** And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Gergashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; **and I delivered them** into your hand. **Joshua 24:12** **And I sent the hornet** before you, which drave them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. **Joshua 24:13** **And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. Joshua 24:14** Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. **Joshua 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.