

Making Wise Choices

There are only two choices that we can make throughout our life. Whose voice will we listen to? Will it be God's voice or the voice of Satan? We need to seriously consider the result of that choice.

The choice was clear to Adam and Eve. God said, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (**Genesis 2:16-17**). The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the midst of the garden (**Genesis 2:9; 3:3**). Satan said, "You will not surely die" (**Genesis 3:4**).

Lot had a choice to make concerning his flocks. He could choose the plain of Jordan that was well watered everywhere or the land of Canaan (**Genesis 13:6-13**). However, in the plain of Jordan was Sodom that was exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord (**Genesis 13:12-13**). Consider the consequence of that choice (**2 Peter 2:6-9**).

Consider the choice that Moses had to make. He could have chosen to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and possibly become Pharaoh himself one day. Or he could choose to suffer with the people of God than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (**Hebrews 11:24-27**).

The choice was clear to the people in the days of Joshua. He challenged the people to choose that day whom they would serve; the false gods or the true God, the Lord. The people chose to serve the Lord. Then Joshua told them to put away the foreign gods (**Joshua 24:14-25**).

Solomon choose wisdom rather than riches in becoming king (**1 Kings 3:6-10**). He was blessed by the Lord as a result. However, when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God (**1 Kings 11:4-6**).

The choice was clear to the people in the days of Elijah. He challenged that people, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word (**1 Kings 18:21**).

Jesus said that there are two gates, one is narrow and the other is wide. You choose which gate you will enter (**Matthew 7:13-14**). The wise man is the one who hears the sayings of Jesus and does them. The foolish man is the one who hears but does not do them (**Matthew 7:24-27**).

Paul said that we are to walk in wisdom. We are to understand what the will of the Lord is. We are to be filled with the Spirit. We are to give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 5:15-20**).

We are not to be wise in our own eyes (**Proverbs 3:7**). We are to hear instruction and be wise (**Proverbs 9:9-10**). We need to remember that we are sheep in the midst of wolves (**Matthew 10:16**). We are to be faithful and wise stewards who discern the time (**Luke 12:54-56**).

We are challenged not to compare ourselves with ourselves (**2 Corinthians 10:12**). If we lack wisdom, we are to ask God (**James 1:5, 8**). We need to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath (**James 1:19-20**). We are to be doers of the Word of God and not hearers only (**James 1:22**).

We sometimes ask God and do not receive because we ask for the wrong reason (**James 4:4**). We are to submit to God and to resist the devil (**James 4:7-8**). We need to be patient and

establish our hearts with God (**James 5:8**). If we say that we abide in God, we ought to walk just as He walked (**1 John 2:6**).

Something to think about!

David B. McElwain