

LIFE'S ABOUT OUR DECISIONS

(Part II)

Acts 28:17-27

Woodland Park Church of Christ

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PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

- Making decisions (choices), like a number of other matters, is common to all.
- Life really is about making decisions.
- Quality of life hinges on the decisions we make.
 - Where and how we spend our time;
 - How we spend our money;
 - Who we choose to get close to or to get intimate with;
 - The direction we take when it comes to matters of right and wrong.

MY LIFE IMPROVED WHEN I STARTED MAKING BETTER DECISIONS!

- *So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, **persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.** ²⁴ **And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.** ²⁵ So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, ²⁶ saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; ²⁷ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'" ' Acts 28:23-27*

In today's text . . .

- The Apostle Paul presents the Jews at Jerusalem with the gospel – they could either accept it or reject it. **Act 28:23**
- Like many situations, some will accept what's right, pure, or expedient, while others will reject the same. **Acts 28:24**
- **A MATTER OF PERSONAL CHOICE!**

Two Officials Blow It by . . .

1. Awaiting a Convenient Time

- Felix (Governor): Acts 24:24-25
- *Carpe diem* → “Seize the day (moment).” See Acts 8:34-39 (Ethiopian eunuch seized the opportunity)

2. Being Indecisive (Waffling)

- King Agrippa: Acts 26:26-29
- *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him . . .*** 1 Kings 18:21 ff.

KEYS TO MAKING GOOD DECISIONS

1. Avoid Pollution / Protect Your Mind
2. Be (Stay) Informed
3. Commit to Your Purpose (Mission)

2. BE (REMAIN) INFORMED

*Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.** ¹² Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. Acts 17:10-12*

- Get enough information to make an informed decision.
- An uninformative decision is usually a poor one.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.
See Luke 14:28-33

3. COMMIT TO YOUR PURPOSE (MISSION)

*Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? **For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**" Acts 21:12-13*

- Proceed (conduct affairs) with the end in mind! S. Covey
- Being committed to your purpose and knowing your mission should drive and influence the choices you make.

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**"* Mark 10:45

This truth influenced the Lord's actions and guided his decisions.

- Remember the Lord thwarting Satan's temptations. **Matthew 4:1-11**
- Recall the confrontation and stand off in the Garden of Gethsemane. **Matthew 26:47-54**

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body --**
 - Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7);**
 - Believe the gospel (Acts 8:37,15:7);**
 - Repent of sins (Acts 2:38);**
 - Confess Christ (Acts 8:37);**
 - Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38).**

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (I John 1:8-9); or
- Desire prayer. (James 5:16).