

fathers day

bible declaration

Choose

The dean of a university was at a faculty meeting when a professor from the antiquities department handed him an old brass lamp they had just acquired. The dean rubbed a smudge from it, and as he did, a genie appeared. "I'm the genie from the lamp," he said, "and I'm here on a special assignment, Dean. Your unselfish service has won you a reward. You have a choice – you can have either unthinkable wealth, infinite wisdom, or unsurpassed beauty." Without hesitating, the dean selected wisdom. "It is done!" the genie said, and then he disappeared into a cloud of smoke and back into the lamp. All of the other members of the faculty stared at the dean with amazement. Finally one of them whispered, "Now that you have infinite wisdom, Dean, say something." The dean looked them and said, "I should have taken the money."

Life's full of interesting choices, isn't it? You already made several today. Without thinking about it, you exercised one of the greatest God-given qualities you and I have as human beings.

every day we make choices-- its easier for some
elab-----

I. The Reality of Your Choice (For You)

In the beginning, God created all that is, including man. He didn't have to. It was His own choice. The way He established it all was up to Him too. No one told God what things should look like or how they should work. And when He made man in His own image, that was His choice too. Somewhere, as He put it all together, He gave us something precious. We call it volition, or free will – it's the ability to choose. God placed choices in front of us.

Drs. Minirth & Meyer in their book *Happiness Is a Choice* - wrote, "As psychiatrists, we cringe whenever Christian patients use the words, 'I can't' and 'I've tried.' Any good psychiatrist knows that 'I can't' & 'I've tried' are merely lame excuses. We insist that our patients stop saying 'can't' and say 'won't' instead." "They need to see what they are really doing, so we make them face up to it by saying, 'I just won't get along with my wife.' 'My husband & I won't communicate.' 'I won't discipline my kids the way I should.' 'I won't find time to pray.' 'I won't stop gossiping.' 'I won't I won't

When they change their "can'ts" to "won'ts" they stop avoiding the truth & start facing reality."

Too many people are running around without an appreciation for the fact that God has given them the ability to choose to do what's right.

Cain was angry at his brother Abel. So God told him,

Genesis 4:7

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.

Cain had a choice. God encouraged him to do what was right.

His job was to make the right choice.

That's us.

YOU CAN DO WHAT'S RIGHT. YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

II. The Value of Your Choice

Have you ever wondered why? Why He even gives us a choice? Why, in Eden, did God even place the tree that was off limits?

Think for a moment how much it cost God to make us this way. Given the chance to make wrong choices, we do. And with us making wrong choices, the only way for us to be in a restored relationship with God is by the death of His son on the cross. Our free will is what made the cross necessary. That's how much it cost God.

Why do it? Why give us a choice?

He chose us he gave his Son, that brings Value to the relationship when you choose Jesus, when you choose to obey that brings value.

III. The Impact of Your Choice

The ability to choose is not only valuable, it's also full of power. By our choices we set the course for our whole lives, whether good or bad. I wonder how much more seriously we would take some of our choices if we could see how they're going to affect the futures of ourselves and the people around us.

Your choice to smile at someone today may affect that person's whole day. Your choice to stop and converse with someone, to offer a word of encouragement, could change the entire course of someone's attitude. Your decision to finally share your faith with your friend this week could change that person's forever. It works negatively too. Your decision not to talk with someone who needed to hear from you this morning could feed resentment in that person. Your choice to mess around during the message today could be the thing that prevents someone from taking his need for Jesus seriously. Our choices make an impact. Really it was choices that Jesus spoke of when He said,

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Conclusion:

It's as if we're all on the same ship, and it's sinking. 2 rescue boats approach and we're invited to leave. Each boat could hold all the passengers. One, they tell us, is going on out to sea and certain doom. The other will take its passengers back to the safety of the shore. Where you end up will depend on which boat you get on. Each one has its course all set. You have to decide which one you'll take

EVERY DAY WE HAVE CHOICES IN OUR LIVES

LETS CHOOSE

joy, peace, love, hope, thankfulness, worship, giving, life,
forgiveness, wisdom, mercy, purity, perseverance, respect,
freedom, blessings, honor, salvation, Jesus