

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 - Day 156 – II Chronicles 13-16, Psalm 125, Romans 16

“...do not fight against the Lord, the God of your ancestors; for you cannot succeed.” (*II Chronicles 13:12b*)

How often in life do we know the right thing to do and yet, we choose to go the other way? We humans are a peculiar bunch. Sure, the larger context of today's II Chronicles passage deals with war, but don't get hung up on that. What the writer is really talking about is faithfulness.

With humanity's tendencies towards an appetite for the world rather than that which God expects from us, these two wills seem to always be at odds. This faithfulness, though, is not a matter of good vs evil, but rather it's a matter of what is life-giving versus the things that are not. Even while we instinctively know the difference, the path forward is often more difficult. So how do we travel this road of inner self-contradiction, one where we know the right way and yet make the wrong choices?

Again, we have a choice. And, it seems that even amidst a possible solution there are two paths. There is one that trudges forward led by our own appetites completely undaunted by our plight. Or, there is the path of repentance. The humility of repentance leads us to our knees and to the acknowledgment of where we have gone wrong in our relationship with God and our neighbor. And yet, true repentance goes even further. It's not a passive thing. True repentance is more than words, but rather it's action. Repentance means more than stopping what we are doing, but rather it means changing our direction. Think of it this way, if we were going down the highway and at some point, we realized we were supposed to be heading west but somehow we were driving east, would we keep driving east anyway? Of course not, the only way to rectify that situation would be to take the next exit, cross over the bridge and enter back onto the highway, completely changing our orientation. That's what repentance is like. So, in light of our faithfulness, or maybe our lack thereof, and our need for true repentance, today's lesson makes me think of some questions that may be helpful.

- What are some of the things in your life that you do, that you know are in opposition to God's will?
- What might repentance look like in your life?
- What does faithfulness look like in your life?

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