

The CHOICE
April 10, 2022
Week 6

DIRECTION, not Intention, leads to your Destination.

Question- Has anyone ever made a wrong turn in life?
There's a dramatic story in 1 Samuel 24 where we read about the Choices that literally affected the destiny and legacy of a nation.

1 Samuel 24:1- David faces Goliath

David becomes the hero of the army... and at this point to King Saul as well! So the King invites David to come and live in the castle, and lead his army.

1 Samuel 24:1-2- After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the... "Craggs of the Wild Goats."

Now here's where the story gets personal!

The King needs to stop for a potty break... and he just so happens to walk in to the very same cave where David and all of his men are hiding... all alone!

1 Samuel 24:4a- The men said, This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.

I. Choice vs. Emotion

The Truth is... If you could take Emotion out of our decisions... most decisions become fairly easy to make.

- I've stood by the bedside with many families as their loved one was seemingly no longer responding to life sustaining treatment. They were given the decision of "*Pulling the Plug.*"

So they ask... Pastor, what should we do?

They're looking for DIRECTION when they don't know what to do?!

Let me share some *Guiding Principles* when you're not sure what to do, so you don't make a wrong turn.

A. Listen to God First and Foremost.

We've all had Well-Meaning people in our lives.

They're not necessarily meaning to us harm, but they don't always have a good grasp on the situation either.

That's what David's men were thinking!

- ***This is our Day!***
- **This must be God?!**
- **It was just Too Perfect of a situation!**
- **Go get him David!**

But as David moves out, he begins to hear another VOICE!

As David approaches the King... rather than “running him through,” he cuts the bottom of the Kings robe off and crawls back to his men.

Question: What INFLUENCED David in that moment of Great Decision? The Word of God!

David was versed in the Word of God, the Word was there to guide him when he needed it the most.

Psalm 119:11- I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

God gave him a Red Light, when everyone else was giving him the Green Light. Ever been there?

B. Listen to counsel that has YOUR best interest at Heart.

The sad truth is, some of the voices you've listened to have not always had your best interest in mind. And that has helped lead you to the place where you're now saying, How did I get here?!

Sometimes it's People, but let's be honest, sometimes it's... Pride.

David's men were *IGNORING the PRINCIPLE of the Matter.*

David had no right to REPLACE, what God had put in PLACE!

Time in God's Word & God's Presence will bring an amazing amount of Clarity to your Life, Decisions, and Challenges.

This is why I tell people when they don't know what to do... Get in the Word, and Get in God's Presence!

God's voice gave him CLARITY that enabled him to resist the pressure to choose a course of action he would someday regret.

C. Make TODAY'S Decisions with TOMORROW in Mind.

David knew that the events of that day would eventually become a story that would be told and retold, possibly for generations! [We're still telling it today!]

Question: So how do we utilize God's Wisdom to keep us from making wrong turns?

Ask yourself these 3 questions when challenged to Act rather than Pray.

- 1. Does this option violate God's Law?**
 - a. Has God already spoken on this matter?**

- 2. Does this option violate one of God's Principles?**
 - a. What do you think Saul's young fighting men thought about David when he emerged from the cave with the fabric from Saul's robe?**

What an honorable man... I would follow him!!

- 3. In light of the story I want to tell, (righteous emotion) what is the wise thing to do? Maybe**

even more, what story will others tell about you?!