

June 11, 2023

Ask More, Get Less: Week 2

The Integrity Question: Am I being Honest with Myself, really?

Your Decisions determine the Direction and Quality of your life!

In this series, I want to help you with Biblical Direction to make the Best Possible Life Decisions, while leaving with the fewest Regrets!

The truth is, nobody PLANS to complicate their life with Bad Decisions, but far too many people DON'T plan NOT to!

There are 5 Game-Changing questions that can equip us to make better...

- Financial Decisions
- Relational Decisions
- Family Decisions
- And/Or Professional Decisions

Question: How many have ever been DECEIVED in your Life?

How many have ever been DECEIVED by the person in the Mirror?

- Whether you want to believe me or not, you have talked yourself into every bad decision you have ever made!
- No doubt there were outside pressures, but in the end, you decided!
- And no doubt, most of those bad decisions came as a knee jerk reaction rather than a carefully, wisely thought out decision!

Question: Do you know why Great Leaders last?

Connection 1: You can't lead yourself if you're LYING to yourself!

Dishonesty leaks... If you lie to yourself, you'll lie to others too! Dishonesty erodes credibility and undermines moral authority.

We create false narratives when our Self-Esteem is threatened, and then we're forced to justify our lies so no one will find out the real reason we lied!

Here's the crazy truth, the longer you carry them, the truer they become... at least to you!

Question: Do you know what fuels Addiction? Dishonesty.

Decisions fueled and protected by the false narrative. And most addiction recovery groups have as their first rule of recovery: You must be rigorously HONEST.

Connection 2: If you aren't honest about WHY you are choosing what you are choosing, you will have a difficult time taking responsibility for the outcome of your choices.

We have to get comfortable with the Uncomfortable Truth regarding WHY we are choosing to do what we are choosing to do!

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV) is a pretty familiar passage... The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Jeremiah's Role: After the reign of King Solomon, and the Kingdom that his father David had UNITED, the wheels fell off for Israel.

God gave the prophetic job to Jeremiah. Go talk to a King that doesn't want to hear it!

- He started with King Jehoiakim. Judah, and most of the world was under the control of the Babylonians. All the nations had to pay tribute to Babylon to secure their protection.
- But one day, King Jehoiakim decided he was no longer going to pay! Jeremiah showed up and told him, not only was that a bad idea, but it was against God's direction for Judah at the time. But the King made up his mind.
- The Babylonians destroyed the city and they took Jehoiakim captive, gouged out his eyes, and put him in chains! And before they left, they installed the king's son, Jehoiachin in his place.
- This time they set up Jehoiachin's uncle Zedekiah.

And just like his earlier two relatives, He went to war with the mighty Babylonians. And as they were laying siege to the city, Zedekiah called for Jeremiah to call on God on his behalf. But Jeremiah's chilling words were: it is too late for that.

And so Jeremiah, after experiencing all of this, writes this TRUTH. The heart is DECEITFUL above all things and beyond cure.

More times than not we can spot Dishonesty, but Deceitfulness is a whole other thing! It often gets us by something good that's happening.

And I'm here to tell you that's what we do to ourselves as well! We don't merely lie to ourselves, we deceive ourselves!

Have you ever said, "I don't understand why I did what I did!?" So to live a Life of MORE you have to ask yourself, "am I being honest with myself really?"

Let me give you 3 places to start that usually produce the biggest regrets.

1.) Dumb Purchases

2.) Doomed Relationships

When you look back you wonder, “how did I miss the signs!?” The problem wasn’t that you were clueless, you just saw what YOU wanted to see!

3.) Destructive Habits

Somehow you convinced yourself that it was only a Pastime. What you didn’t realize was it was a PATHWAY!

Can I give you another Truth Bomb? You rarely have to sell yourself on a GOOD idea, the healthy thing to do, the responsible thing to do. Good ideas rarely need any defense!

Our Deceitful heart gets our brain wrapped around something, and moves it to figure out a way to justify it and get it for you! Your heart knows it’s hard to get your brain to act on justifying a Want, but it’s not so difficult to justify a foolish Need.

Guess what happens when we get Honest: we’re Accountable!

Telling yourself the Truth will hurt at First, but you will reap a lot of pleasure in the months to come!

Lying to yourself at first will give you a lot of Happiness, followed by months of Pain.