

The Choice
March 6, 2022
Week 1

Today we begin a brand new series! I'm really excited about this because not only do we get to unpack these truths here on Sunday morning, but many of you will be meeting throughout the week in your Life Groups to further unpack these messages and begin applying them to your life!!

Question: How many of you have ever had an "I told you so" moment?"

Now sometimes, we get to be on the *giving side* of those moments...which are the Best... but unfortunately, it seems that more times than not we're on the *receiving end* of those moments!"

If you're married and a man...you know what I'm talking about!

Alot of those experiences happen in the car! Because MEN are genetically opposed to asking for directions. We tend to drive further and faster to get back on course after we've realized we've been lost for awhile...and our wife has been holding her tongue waiting for the perfect moment to say... "I told you so."

If you have a GPS, in addition to your wife telling you, “Jill” will rather emphatically inform you that she is...”Recalculating!” I’m surprised they haven’t programed her with an, “I told you so!”

What we’re going to discover in this series is that the same principle that we apply to get us from **Erie to Orlando** *applies to almost every other areas of our lives as well!*

What’s true Geographically... is also true Relationally, Mentally, Financially, and even Physically!

There are Predictable Roads that will lead you to Permanent Destinations. Some good...some not so good.

It’s probably a safe bet to say that there are some of you that are NOT where you want to be.

- You feel stuck.
- You lack direction.
- Your world is spinning and you don’t know where to get off.

We’ve all said it at One Time or other...

How did I get here?

How did this happen?

When did all of this start?

The FORK in the road always brings about a CHOICE!

And the fact that we ALL have said these phrases at some point, speaks to the Universal Truth about many of our Predicaments.

I. Our CHOICES often fights or follows a Principle

Principles aren't Rules or Laws. (In fact, the nature of a Principle is you don't have to know it or apply it, or to even be impacted by it!)

There was a scientist who lived about 300 years before Christ, and he discovered one of these big principles. **Archimedes-[PIC]**

How is it that a small rock sinks, but a large ship floats?

It's *the Principle of Buoyancy*...and it was around long before Archimedes. He didn't invent it...he simply discovered it. Things were sinking and floating long before he showed up!

The miracle is, he discovered how to Leverage it.

He discovered that ***a body immersed in liquid receives an upward thrust from the bottom toward the top, equal to the weight of the displaced liquid.***

Which may mean nothing to you... until you're drowning and someone throws you a Life Preserver! Then you can choose to Fight it or Follow it!!

And because people have been unwilling to leverage God's Principles...

- 1. Most people's dreams don't come true**
- 2. Intelligent people with big goals end up far from where they intended to be**
- 3. People who seemingly have everything, wind up with nothing.**

Prodigal Son had a CHOICE- Luke 15

But there's something more I want you to know about this. Maybe the most important?!!

II. The Predictability of a Principle

It's always there! a.k.a Cause & Effect or what the Bible calls it, Sowing & Reaping... its the Principle of the Harvest...

How does the Principle of the Harvest relate to your Friendships, Finances, and Marriage?

If you don't Invest in your Friendships...

If you don't Invest in your Marriage...

If you don't Invest in your Future...

If you don't invest in your Dreams...

Is it no wonder why you're Stuck?!

A. Our Challenge: to Identify the Right Path and ultimately make the Right Choice.

The Point of our Series:

Direction, not Intention determines your Destination

A lot of people tell me...

- **But I never intended for it to go this far.**
- **I never intended for it to cost me so much.**
- **I never intended to get hooked, to keep going back for more.**

The challenge of living only by Intention, is that it will often lead you down the wrong path. And there are A LOT of wrong Paths out there!

What our series is designed to do is... Point you in the Right Direction!!

1. Experience-

Most of us get smart through experience...

When I was out of college I lived with a family and I thought Darryl knew everything! Now that I'm older and have some college kids around me, I'm able to help them so much faster because of my experience.

What I came to learn was that Darryl wasn't necessarily so much smarter than me...but he was a whole lot more experienced than me.

And although Experience can be a good teacher, it's not necessarily the best teacher... because it robs you of your most valued commodity...your TIME!

(Think of where you would be today, how much less pain and suffering you would have endured, how much richer you would have been if you had learned this principle sooner?!)

2. And what about Bad Experiences???
They leave scars, inescapable memories and sometimes life-long regrets.

III. The Yellow Brick Road Promise

- **Dorothy...in the Wizard of Oz found herself in unfamiliar surroundings. She didn't really know how she got there.**
- **She didn't know where she was...and most frightening...she didn't know how to get home...**

What she eventually found was a Path, and had to make a CHOICE to follow it!

Question: Wouldn't it be great if we had a Yellow Brick Road today for some of the big moments in our lives?!

- Imagine a Yellow Brick Road that led to a Marriage that made you want to come home early every day?
- A Yellow Brick Road that led to better Health?
- A Yellow Brick Road that would lead you back into a relationship with someone you never thought you would be able to reconnect with- your dad, mom, best friend??

If that were the case, you would stop looking for solutions and start looking for the right path!

When someone is truly lost, it's not a solution they need, it's a Direction!

To get from where you don't want to be, to where you want to be... requires two things.

Time

Proper Direction

***Things* have problems that need to be solved.
People use Wise Choices that lead them to the right destination!**

Let's finish with this Honest Truth. Can we all be honest for a minute? :)

BAND

**There are no sudden surprises.
You and I get to a Destination (*whether good or bad*)
the same way. The Path we chose! Often times we
see them as isolated, disconnected events. But its
not true...our Choices connect them all!**

**Here's the startling truth...We don't usually abandon
the clearly marked paths because we are looking for
trouble.**

**I know you're a good guy or a good girl. I know
it wasn't your Intention to get into that kind of
trouble.**

**But there is something powerfully appealing about the
alternative route, about taking the Short Cut.**

**I want to Pray for you today. And as I pray, I want you
to LOOK DOWN. What PATH are you on today??**

Jesus said there are TWO PATHS

- **The Big One...that everyones on...its leading
everybody in the wrong direction, to the
wrong destination.**
- **The Narrow One...that's the one you want to
find today! You need Jesus to help point you
in the right direction!!**

PRAYER

Group Questions:

- 1. Talk about some “I Told You So” moments that you either Gave or Received?!**
- 2. Talk about a time when you stood at the FORK in the road over some life decision. How did it go? Why? What did you wish you knew then??**
- 3. What stands out to you in the story of the Prodigal Son in relation to His choices? Luke 15 if needed.**
- 4. Comment on... Direction, not Intention determines your Destination. Where have you seen this work in your life?**
- 5. Do you agree...there are no sudden surprises?! What honest conversation did you have to have with yourself or someone else to get them on the Right Path?**