

Choices

Joshua 24:14-15

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"When you come to a fork in the road...take it!"
(Yogi Berra)



INTRODUCTION:

Every day we face figurative "forks in the road" where we must make a choice, more specifically ... the decision of whether to obey God or not

Since the very beginning of time, mankind has made these choices of their own free will exactly as God designed.

Old Testament Examples: Choices & Outcomes

- Genesis Adam/Eve – faced choice of eating of forbidden tree
 - Outcome (chapter 3) separation from God's presence
- Genesis Noah – faced with the choice of building the Ark (& details)
 - Outcome (chapter 8) he & his family saved
- Genesis Abraham – faced multiple choices (Leaving Ur, sacrificing Isaac)
 - Outcome: considered a man of great faith
 - Received covenant promises from God
- Genesis Joseph – choice regarding Potiphar's wife
 - Outcome: God blessed him for these types of choices
- Genesis/Exodus Moses – multiple choices to lead Israel out of Egypt
 - Outcome: great man of faith
- Joshua 24:15 Joshua – choice to follow God or crowds (man)
 - "choose you this day whom you will serve ..."
- 2 Samuel 11 David – choice regarding Bathsheba
 - Outcome (12:14) suffered death of son
- Others Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Kings, Jonah, etc.

New Testament Examples: Choices & Outcomes

- Acts 5 Ananias/Sapphira – choice of honesty in giving
 - Outcome (verses 5, 10) fell down & breathed their last
- Gospels Zacchaeus; Thieves on the cross; Judas
- Acts Cornelius, Centurion, Philippian Jailer, Eunuch

Romans 1:19-21

We have enough information/evidence purely by his creation to know & accept him as creator and sovereign God of all things.

This same choice to us as Christians

- John 12: 44-50 Jesus speaks to multitudes in Jerusalem of this same choice
- to believe, accept, obey him
 - refuse to obey, reject him
- Acts 2:38 Peter & apostles point out this same choice to Jews at Pentecost
- accept, repent, obey or not
 - outcome (verse 41) those that received, baptized and added to their number

Same Choice to Us Today

This is the same choice we have today, that each one of us must make and as we read in John 12, we will be judged by our response.

Initial choice is not enough, it is the first of many we must make every day (Joseph, etc.)

- John 14:15 if we love him, we will keep his commandments
- Hebrews 3:14 partakers of Christ, IF we hold steadfast until the end
- Hebrews 10:36 only after doing the will of God, receive the promised rest

Ephesians 1:3-12

God's plan before creation of the world for us to be redeemed back into a relationship with him through his son. That's the "gospel" or "good news" we read of in the Bible!

1 Corinthians 15:1

It is by THIS gospel we are saved, IF (verse 2) we hold fast or else believed in vain.

CONCLUSION:

What choice have you made? What choices WILL you make?
Obey God or turn your back on him again?
Regain your relationship with him or continue to wander away?