

## It Seemed So Right

Text : **Luke 10:38-42 -&- Luke 12: 13-21**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

- A. Illustration :** While driving down an interstate to a preaching appointment, I pulled off at a stop to get gas and a breakfast sandwich, but discovered there was no way to get back on the interstate. I had to drive 20 miles on a small highway and arrived late. What I thought was a good idea ended up costing me dearly.
1. I had used the best information available at the time.
  2. My motives were good.
  3. The results were very negative. I lost my support.
- B. Have you ever made a decision you thought was a really good one, but it went bad.**
1. Everyone has at one time or another.
  2. Some such decisions were of little consequence, but others were devastating.
    - a. Ordered something at restaurant that looked good on menu, but was really bad
    - b. Married a person who turned out to be very different than you thought
- C. Life is a series of choices.**
1. We all make choices every day.
    - a. Many are of little consequence. ( **choosing slow checkout line at store** )
    - b. Some affect the rest of our lives. ( **For example, who we will marry.** )
    - c. Some decisions seem small at the time, but have enormous consequences.
  2. No one chooses the right things all of the time.
    - a. When Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit, she thought it was a good decision.
    - b. **Jude 11-13** ... The devil enters the church the same as he did the Garden of Eden.
    - c. People with destroyed lives, never made a decision to wreck their future.
- D. Life is a one-way street.**
1. There are no “do-overs” or U-turns.
  2. We can change our future direction, but can’t undo the past.
    - a. **“One can’t unscramble eggs.”**
    - b. One can seldom escape the consequences of his actions. ( **We reap our harvest.** )
    - c. **One can’t keep sowing wild oats and just pray for a crop failure.**  
**One who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind. ( Hosea 8: 7 )**

## I. NO ONE IS BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS.

### A. Young people are notoriously bad decision makers.

1. This is why young people pay higher insurance rates. ( **inexperienced at life** )
  - a. They have superior physical ability. ( **strength, agility, reaction time** )
  - b. They lack the ability to make good decisions. ( **cf. Prov. 22: 15a** )
  - c. Foolish decisions seem good to them. ( **act without thinking** )
2. Young people require discipline and training to develop the ability to choose wisely.
  - a. That's why the civil law makes parents responsible for the acts of their minor children.
  - b. The rights of the young are limited. ( **drive, drink, consent, contracts, marry** )
3. God requires parents to actively work to develop their children's ability to choose.
  - a. **Prov. 22: 15** – Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;  
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.
  - b. **Prov. 22: 6** – Train up a child in the way he should go, ( **Do you always clean your plate? Why ?** )  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.
  - c. **Eph. 6: 4** – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,  
but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
4. The maturing process is supposed to replace folly with responsible thinking.  
**I Cor. 13: 11** – When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

**\*\*\* Physical growth just happens, but wisdom must be developed.**

### B. Likewise, those who are born again are not born fully mature.

1. "Babes" in the faith are urged to seek growth and maturity.
 

**I Pet. 2: 1**– Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, **2**–like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, **3** –if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ( **Putting aside comes before growth.** )
2. The lack of spiritual growth causes worldly behavior.
 

**I Cor. 3: 1**– And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. **2**–I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, **3**–for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
3. Spiritual immaturity causes a new Christian to be unstable.
 

**Eph. 4: 14**– As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15**– but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

4. Just as in the physical realm, we require discipline to train us in the spiritual realm.

**Heb. 12: 4**– You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; **5**– and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “**MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6**– FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES **HE** DISCIPLINES, AND **HE** SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM **HE** RECEIVES.” **7**– It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? **8**– But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. **9**– Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? **10**– For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us for our good*, so that we may share His holiness. **11**– All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

5. As in the physical realm, spiritual children are expected to mature and develop.

**Heb. 5: 11**– Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is hard to explain*, since you have become dull of hearing. **12**– For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **13**– For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. **14**– But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

**We all start off as babes without the ability to make sound decisions, but God expects for us to mature with time, study and experience.**

## II. SPIRITUAL MATURITY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR DECISIONS.

### A. Sound business decisions are not always sound spiritual decisions.

1. **Review ... Luke 12: 13-21** “I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones.”
2. The decisions made by this rich man would be considered wise by the world.
  - a. People work hard and invest to make gain.
  - b. We all want a secure retirement.
  - c. This man just wanted to enjoy the fruits of his success.
3. Jesus condemned the rich man because he was thinking only in earthly terms.
  - a. The man was not “**rich toward God.**”
  - b. Worldly thinking is required to make a man rich. ( **antithesis of spiritual** )
    - 1) One desire to achieve financial success. ... **I Tim. 6: 8-10**
    - 2) One must concentrate his efforts on successful. ... **Matt. 6: 25-33** ( seek 1<sup>st</sup> )

4. The spiritual man uses his wealth to accomplish the good God wants done.
  - a. **I Tim. 6: 17**– Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18**– *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19**– storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.
  - b. **Eph. 4: 28**– He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.
    - \* **The Christian’s motive for earning is not to have, but to be able to give.**
  - c. The ability to give is a gift for which Christians give account to God. ... **Rom. 12: 8**

## B. Sound spiritual decisions are not always approved of by the world.

1. **Review ... Luke 10: 38-42** “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all”
2. Sometimes a Christian is forced to choose the best thing over a good thing.
  - a. Helping Martha would have been a good thing. It was Mary’s responsibility.
  - b. Jesus approved of her neglecting her earthly responsibility to pursue a spiritual goal.
  - c. cf- **Luke 9: 59**– And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” **60**– But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” ( “**seek ye first the ...**” )
3. People with a worldly mindset CANNOT understand spiritually based decisions.
  - a. **I Cor 2: 14**– But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. **15**– But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.
  - b. Some very nice people will strongly disapprove of spiritual thinking. ( **incl. family** )
  - c. Some church members do not understand spiritual thinking. ( **ill. - Corinth** )
4. The devil will always have many great reasons why we should choose the world.
  - a. Christians live as lights in darkness. ( **a candle is consumed as it burns** )
  - b. Christians are strangers on an earth dominated by an ungodly culture. ( **different** )
  - c. Making right spiritual choices will seldom be the easy course. ( **The world views them as impractical, as unrealistic and often as foolish.** )

**Only God Himself is perfect. Every individual Christian and every congregation has made wrong decisions at one time or another. ( Consistency is illusive. )**

### III. WHAT DOES ONE DO WHEN HE REALIZES HE'S MADE A MISTAKE?

#### A. “When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing you do is **stop digging.**”

1. Continuing on a wrong course won't make it right. ( ill. : **on wrong highway** )
2. The wise man admits his mistakes and does his best to correct them.
3. **II Cor. 4: 1**—Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not loose heart, **2**— but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

#### B. Pray for forgiveness, for wisdom and for guidance.

1. It's futile to try to hide anything from God.
  - a. **Heb. 4: 13**—And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
  - b. Compare ... **Psa. 139**
2. God is willing to forgive the Christian who will acknowledge his sinfulness.
  - a. **I John 1: 9** ... “If we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us ...”
  - b. **Acts 8: 22**—Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

#### D. Accept the consequences and press on toward the future.

1. God will forgive our errors, but we must live with the consequences.
  - a. Esau was very sorry for his bad decision, but had to live with consequences. **Gen 30**
  - b. When Israel tried to avoid the consequences of refusing to take the land. **Num. 14**
  - c. **You can't unscramble eggs.**
  - d. Learn from your mistake and press on. ( **Consequences are a reminder ... don't** )
2. God wants for us to keep moving forward regardless.
 

**Phil. 3: 13**—Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, **14**—I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15**—Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; **16**—however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

( **NEVER GIVE UP !!** )

**CONCLUSION :**

- A. Some decisions seem so right at the time, we do not consider the consequences.**
1. Line from old song. *“How could it be wrong when it seems so right ?”*
  2. Many a young person has destroyed their life by one wrong decision.
- B. Our mindset determines how we make our decisions.**
1. The rich man felt his decision was wise and it was probably approved of by his peers.
  2. Martha felt so justified in her disapproval of Mary’s decision to complain to Jesus.
- C. As long as we view ourselves as being part of the world, we’ll reason like they do.**
1. The ability to make good decisions takes knowledge and practice. ( **Heb. 5: 14** )
    - a. In the scriptures we see demonstrated God reactions to the decisions of others.
    - b. Our spiritual senses are trained by practice in applying what we read.
    - c. We should be willing to expend equal energy to developing spiritually as physically.
  2. Our transformation from worldly to spiritual is a result of a changed mind. ( **Rom 12** )
    - a. To make the change requires effort, determination and courage on our part.
    - b. It is accomplished step by step over time. ( **first baby-steps, then repeat** )
- D. Be aware of the need for spiritual thinking and set realistic goals.**
- Commit yourself to systematically work toward spiritual development.**
1. I will be totally spiritual every Friday. ( **choose any time, e.g., 3 to 7:00 p.m.** )
  2. I will be totally spiritual when I am with \_\_\_\_\_ friend \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. I will be totally spiritual with my money.
  4. I will be totally spiritual when I am off work or at work or ... .
  5. I will be totally spiritual when selecting my recreation.

**The ultimate goal is to be totally spiritual, but that’s a lengthy process.**  
**The key is to set small goals and be dogmatic about accomplishing them.**  
**Pick one area of your life and carefully consider every decision about it.**

**INVITATION**

**The very most important decision is to become a child of God.**

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