

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

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TEXT: Joel 3:12-14 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-- For their wickedness is great." Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

SONG: 299 "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The text is speaking of decisions to be made by God in judgment on the nations.
- B. But, long before that happens we make decisions that will affect God's decisions in the day of judgment.
- C. It is difficult to make proper decisions at the proper time.
- D. All of life is ruined or blessed by the decisions we make.
- E. We are free to choose our own path, chart our own course and determine our own destiny!
- F. We do not have the power to alter the results of our own choosing-Gal. 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
- G. It often costs to make the right decisions; yet, it costs far more to make the wrong one, Deut. 30:15 -19 See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;
- H. You will never regret making the right decision, you will always regret making the wrong one.
- I. Let's notice some unwise decisions and some wise decisions, then we will notice some decisions we must make.

BODY:

I. UNWISE DECISIONS.

A. Adam and Eve.

1. Adam and Eve had one restriction-Gen. 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

2. That is clear but Eve was tempted-Gen. 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

3. Eve fell to the 3 Aves. of temptation.

a. Good for food.

b. Pleasant to eyes.

c. Make one wise.

d. Notice 1 Jn. 2:16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.

(1). Good for food-lust of flesh.

(2). Pleasant to eyes-lust of eyes.

(3). Make one wise-pride of life.

4. Adam was not deceived by Satan, but followed Eve- 1 Tim. 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

5. Look at what this decision cost-1 Cor. 15:21-22 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

B. Cain. Gen. 4:1-15 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Gene 4:1 (NKJV) Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord. Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for

you, but you should rule over it." Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

1. Did not offer by faith.
2. Instead of repenting got angry with his brother, and killed him.

. C. Unwise decision of the people in Noah's day- Gen. 6:5-7 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

1. Man got away from God.
2. God destroyed the world.

D. Lot- Gen. 13:8-13 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

1. Lot saw only here and now. Not spiritual matters.
2. Gen. 19:26 lost his wife.
3. Gen. 19:36 only two daughters left.

E. Achan, Saul, David, many others.

F. Notice a few from the New Testament.

1. Rich young ruler- Mk. 10:17-22 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

2. Ananias and Sapphira- Acts 5:

3. Felix- Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

G. If truth be known all have made wrong decisions.

II. WISE DECISIONS.

A. Noah's decision to walk with God.

B. Abraham's decision to serve God- Gen. 12:1-4 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

C. Moses decision to follow God.

1. Acts 7:22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

2. Heb. 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

III. WHAT ABOUT US? WE MAKE DECISIONS EVERY DAY.

A. Marriage.

1. "Love is blind; but marriage is an eye-opener!"

2. There is hardly a family anywhere in the U.S. that is not affected by divorce and remarriage.

3. Matt. 19:9-10 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery. His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

4. We need to teach our children to marry in the Lord, and "for Keeps."

5. Young lives can be messed up from here to eternity due to becoming yoked together.

6. Never regret marrying a Christian.

B. Education.

1. What you are educated in makes a difference.

2. Never regret learning more about God and His word.

C. Job, occupation.

1. Many must decide between high paying job or occupation with very worldly people or lower paying job with better association.

2. If your job requires you to work on Sunday, you need another job.

3. Noble occupation or evil occupation.

D. Even decisions that we do not consider major, can have major consequences.

1. What to eat.

2. How to dress.

3. Where to go to church or even to go or not.

4. What activities you will be involved with.

E. Decisions, all decisions should be made in light of God and eternity.

CONCLUSION;

A. Now it is up to you.

B. What will be your decision?

C. Are you willing to face the judgment with the decisions you have made or do you need to make some new ones?

D. You will never regret a decision to serve God.

E. You will forever regret not making a decision to serve God.