

# Choices



# Choices: The Only Thing We Can Call Our Own



# What choices do we have?

- God asks no man whether he will accept life. That is not the choice. You must take it. The only question is how.  
Henry Ward Beecher
- **We control how we respond to situations.**
- **The Bible is a set of guidelines for how we should react.**

# **No one knows but you and God.**

- **"Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking."  
Jackson Browne**
- Everyone has faced a situation when you can get away with something.
- There are times when we do good things that will not be recognized by others.

# God sees all- good or bad.

- <sup>5</sup> You, God, know my folly;  
my guilt is not hidden from you.

Psalm 69: 5 (NIV)

- <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)

# Does God's knowledge of our actions affect our choices?

*Whatever you do behind the people -  
you're doing it in front of God*



# God Calls Upon You to Take Action

- <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”
- <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” Exodus 3: 9-11
- <sup>10</sup> Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”
- <sup>13</sup> But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.” Exodus 4: 10,13
- How would you have reacted?
- Do we make excuses for not doing God’s will?

# Would you have talked to the Pharaoh?

- Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"
- <sup>2</sup> Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."
- <sup>3</sup> Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword." Exodus 5: 1-3

# **Do our thoughts and fears prohibit God's plan for us?**

How many chances to live out our faith do we avoid because we are uncomfortable or the situation does not fit our schedule?

# Our Responses to Tragedies and Challenges

- Recent events that would challenge a person's faith:
  - Citizen/Police Shootings
  - Terrorists Attacks
  - Morality Issues
  - Bad Health News

# A Mourning Father and a Sick Woman

- <sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."
- <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.
- <sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. Matthew 9:18-25 (NIV)

# Our Response Shows Others Our Level of Faith

- The synagogue leader knelt before Jesus and asked for help.
- Does our faith lead us to prayer?
- The sick woman believed if she could just touch Jesus' robe she would be healed.
- How strong is our faith in the healing power of God?

# What can we do so our lives are an example for others?

- Pray that when we are tempted God gives us the strength to resist.
- <sup>45</sup> When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup> “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” Luke 22: 45-46 (NIV)

# Allow God's plan for us to be fulfilled.

- <sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV)

# Trust in God's Constant Presence and Help

- <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

# Choices

- May we pray each day that our choices please God and fulfill His will for us.