

## **The Choice Is Yours Deuteronomy 11:26-28**

### **Man is free moral agent - not machine. Careful making choice**

Can obey or disobey - **Isaiah 1:18-20; Acts 28:24**

OT gives valuable lessons concerning "Making Wise Choices"

**Uzzah** - quick choice on physical situation, cost life **2Samuel 6:3-7**

**Lot** - choice regarding abode, resulted in: War & kidnapping **Genesis 14**; Oppression & torment by citizens of Sodom **2Peter 2:7-8**; Loss of everything, including wife, incest with daughters **Genesis 19**

**David** - chose adultery with Bathsheba, as consequence he suffered: Death of son **2Samuel 12**; Daughter molested by half-brother **2Samuel 13**; Son killed by her vengeful brother **2Samuel 13**; Rebellion led by son, public shame, whose death brought more grief to David **2Samuel 15-18**

**Joseph** - chose to serve God: Imprisoned & forgotten; Made second in Egypt; Prepared salvation of family **Genesis 39-47**

**Daniel** - chose to serve God: Given air countenance & wisdom; Position as adviser to ruler of world; Hated by his peers; Survived an overthrow attempt by his enemies **Daniel 1-6**

Choices; Making wise choices, & fixing wrong choices

### **Choices We Don't Always Consider The Affects Of**

Smoking - Influence, health

Drinking - Influence, associates, health, danger, legal

Dating - Influence, reputation, marriage

Sexual Relations - Influence, reputation, disease, responsibility

Dancing, Swimming, Sports, clothing, etc.

Every action has a reaction, & every choice has a consequence.

### **Choices Which Greatly Affect Our Lives**

**Choosing Jesus...** affect life more than any other! Determine place in eternity & have bearing on every decision make; Follow or refuse His gracious salvation - **Matthew 11:28-30**

Concerned doing His will; Not own thing - **Matthew 28:20**

**Choosing A Career...** effect on marriage, family, service to God

Worldly viewpoint, job market changes & wrong financial ruin hardship; Honor God first, and be blessed - **Matthew 6:33**

Money primary factor, destruction follows - **1Timothy 6:6-10**

**Choosing A Mate...** determine your happiness - **Proverbs 12:4**

Divorce is not an option for pleasing God

Cannot reverse choice mother/father of children! Children affected by divorce - **Malachi 2:16**

**Choosing Friends...** friends blessing; wrong friends curse - **Proverbs 17:17; 12:26; 1Corinthians 15:33**

**Choosing Where To Live...** Lot's mistake- sound business but poor moral decision - **Genesis 13:10-13**

How much house afford, location to work, school, etc? Whether help or hinder service to God and His church?

### **Suggestions For Making Wise Choices**

Ask God For Wisdom - **James 1:5-8**

Asking for wisdom requires diligence - **Proverbs 2:2-4**

Ask Others For Advice - **Proverbs 11:14; 12:15**

2 sources for wise counsel - Bible; Older, mature Christians

Don't be like King Rehoboam - **1Kings 12:8**

Commit Your Choices To The Lord...

Trusting you made God pleasing choices - **Psalms 37:5-6; 23-25**

Make your choices understanding - **James 4:15**

Include God in decision making to make wise choices!

## **Responding To Wrong Choices**

Learn From The Mistakes Of Others...

Do what Lot did: Heed and flee! Heed Word of God; Do know is right w/out reservation (Lot's wife!)

Do what Peter did: Repent and serve! Repent, if sin is involved (as when Peter denied Christ); Serve the Lord with what time you have left in this life

Do what Paul did: Accept and live! Determine to live for Lord to the best of your ability - **1Timothy 1:12-16; Philippians 3:13-14**

The Wrong Thing To Do...

Continue - remain in choice because of pride, or other reason!

Wallow - just feel sorry for yourself over your guilt or loss!

## **Important make wise choices & not to make decisions lightly**

Open to God's wisdom & counsel of others about career, spouse, friend, where we will live; Even things - Smoking, drinking, dating, sex, dancing, swimming, sports, clothing

Decide today to follow Jesus **Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:36-41**

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