

Decisions,  
Decisions,  
Decisions!

Matthew 4:1-4









# Life is About Making Decisions

**Some Decision are of Little Consequence:**

- 1) What will I eat for breakfast?**
- 2) What color of clothes to wear?**
- 3) Which car will I drive to work?**



# Other Decisions Can Be Life Changing or Life Ending!

- Am I going to attend the party and then let someone who is inebriated drive me home?
  - Will I continue to hang with this group of friends who have no serious career aspirations? *“They won’t study nor let me study!”*
  - Am I going to smoke my first cigarette to look cool and gain the respect I crave; though cigarettes may shorten my life span? (Nicotine Addiction can start with looking for respect and end with lung cancer; psychological then physical)
  - Will I physically go further with my girl/boy friend this evening than I’ve ever gone before to prove I am serious about them?
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# Life Is About Making Decisions

- **How many people do you know that have ruined their lives by making a series of bad decisions?**
- **How many do you know who when they reached a crossroad in their lives, took the wrong turn and ended up regretting it forever?**
- **Do you know some people who always seem to make good decisions in their lives more often than not?**
- **What seems to be the difference in those who have a track record of wrong decisions and those who consistently made wise choices?**
- **Today, let's look at some principles by which Jesus made His decision about His life that can help us in our decisions**





# #1 Jesus Began His Important Decisions With the End in Mind




- When making difficult decisions, we have to have a sense of our personal destiny, or where we want to go in life
- Jesus knew that His destiny was the cross; and because He knew this, he would not allow the world to get Him “off track” as painful as it was going to be **Matthew 17:22-23:**

*When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day He will be raised to life. And the disciples were filled with grief.*

- How did this fact affect His life choices?
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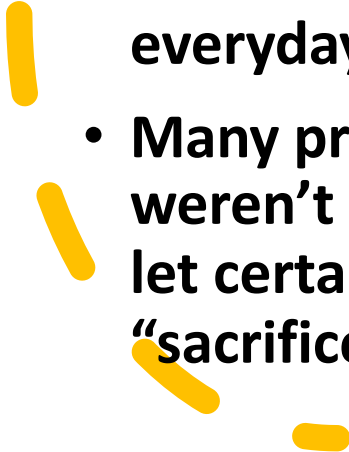
# Observations

- There was a large segment of the Jewish nation that wanted Jesus to overthrow Roman Governmental control, which Jesus decided not to do, because that conquest didn't line up with His life's purpose
  - Remember what Jesus told Pilate the Roman Governor:  
*"My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."* Matt 18:36
  - Many Jews wanted to make Jesus an earthly king (John 6:15); but Jesus refused to let that happen because that would have interfered with what He came to do
  - Jesus made decisions as to who He would spend His time with, based on what His life's objectives were
  - The religious leaders didn't like Jesus because He spent time with sinners (the sick) Mark 2:17: *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repent."*
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# Observations

- **When you have to make tough choices along the way of life, concentrate on what your goals are like Jesus did (His was to seek and save the lost).**
- **Are you making decisions to go to college, finish college, a professional career, change jobs, or marriage? (These are HUGE DECISIONS, each with their consequences)**
- **It's not the intellectual decisions many times that prohibit us from our goals, but the MORAL decisions, that we make everyday that are consequential to our destiny.**
- **Many promising careers are destroyed, not because they weren't smart enough, but because the person wouldn't let certain lifestyles go and commit themselves to the "sacrifices" they needed to make to accomplish their goal.**



The Principle  
of Delayed  
Gratification  
Hebrews  
11:24-26

*“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”*

- The Hebrew writer says that Moses chose to go through the discomfort first, and reap the benefits of struggling later
- Jesus did the same thing, Philippians 2:5-11 (Experience the pain of the Cross before the Glory of Heaven)
- Life’s decisions are about experiencing labor before the reward, and not constantly trying to **BYPASS THE LABOR**

(Eng., Edu., Med., Law., C. Science, Law Enf.)



- One of my Professors left me with a great quote:

**“What you want to be, you are becoming!”**

## Observations

- Approach every day of study with your goal in mind. The amount of material may be excessive to cover! Nobody said it will be easy
- But the rewards are there!
- Don't let anybody or any habit detour you away from your goal. Hebrews 12:1-2






## #2 Jesus Used God's Word in the Decision-Making Process

- Over and Over again in the Gospels, Jesus would use the phrase, *"It is written."*
- In Matthew 4:1-11 when Satan tried to get Jesus to "satisfy His needs," Jesus stayed focus on God's word

Satan tried to get Jesus to make moral decisions based only on "human logic". He basically said, *"Jesus you're hungry, what's wrong with you, turning these stones into bread?"*



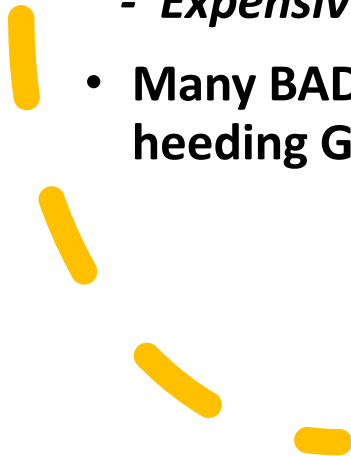
Jesus immediately saw through Satan's premise: *"Fleshly desires should trump spiritual commitments!"*

- Jesus stood firmly : *It is written man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*
  - Notice that God didn't let Jesus starve in this text (Psalms 37:25)
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# Observations

- In general, most of our confusion arises not in *“not knowing”* God’s word, but in NOT LIKING THE ANSWER THAT WE GET!
- Some will argue from this standpoint: *“Well, I believe that God wants me to be happy!”* That argument is used for:
  - *Infidelity/Divorce and Remarriage*
  - *Self Expression*
  - *Expensive Purchases That Result in Financial Catastrophes*
- Many BAD Decisions and their Consequences can be avoided by heeding God’s word.



# Luke 14:28

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***Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'***



# #3 Jesus Prayed Humbly

- You can't help but be impressed with the amount of time Jesus spent in prayer (If He was God and felt the need to pray regularly, shouldn't we?)

- Notice what Luke records in Luke 6:12 -

*One of those days Jesus went to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He designated as Apostles .... (it was a huge decision to choose who would forever represent Him; your children will represent you one day)*

- In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus spent an evening in “agonizing prayer” over what He was about to go through for you and me. His “humanness” wanted to skip it. Our flesh doesn't like disrespect
- When we want to make good on major decisions, we need to spend a lot of time in prayer
- Don't make a “selfish decision” and then ask God to bless it! Ask Him before you make the decision. Prayer will open doors for us.

# The Plan of Salvation

<b>Hear the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Believe the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Repent of Sins</b>	<b>Acts 17:30</b>
<b>Confess Christ</b>	<b>Acts 8:37</b>
<b>Be Baptized</b>	<b>Acts 8:38</b>