



Decisions I Made

Decisions, decisions, decisions. All our lives are full of them. We can hardly make it through a single day without making a ton of them; when to get up, what to wear, eat, etc. So we should be experts by now. Yet there are a few decisions that have lasting implications and perhaps they are made without the least hesitation.

We are all called to an encounter with God; a personal encounter with Him who causes all things to be. That is the destination we are all headed towards. We can prepare now for that encounter or deny it will ever happen. Seeking God in the here and now is the path to union; seeking Egypt (the world) is the path to separation from Him forever. He gives us full reign (free will) to determine how we will get there. Nevertheless, at the end of each life He will be there to judge our every decision.

Our appetites determine the direction of our lives. I do not mean our appetite for food, but our appetite for the things of this world. There are things we were never meant to pursue. God clearly says in Deut. 30:15 that He sets the choice before each of us. "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil." We clearly decide, even as we are distracted and tempted by the things of the world.

It is a sad fact that we become hardened to things we become accustomed to. Doctors become hardened to the sight of blood and torn flesh. That is not evil in itself. It is just a fact. As we amble through this life we all need to make decisions about the paths we take and the friends we make. Evil company corrupts good habits.

Sin can be very enticing and the more we partake of it, the easier it becomes. We are not born evil but we are all born with a sin nature. We can embrace it and freely give into it or we can resist and overcome; overcome by His grace. The choice becomes easier whichever you choose.

I have heard it said there are three stages of obedience; fear, duty, affection. We may first practice

righteousness out of fear of a God who judges. It may then simply become a duty as fear lessens. If we progress forward, we will finally serve out of love. We do not want to hurt the One we love. That is what our Lord seeks.

These are the decisions that shape our lives. There will always be temptations and distractions. Our job is to be diligent to walk that narrow path that leads to life. None of us can be victorious on our own. The closer we stay to Jesus, the safer we will be.

Rightly do the scriptures say; the little foxes spoil the vines. I remember a time when I was with a friend at the doctor's office. There were some supplies on the table where we were waiting and I decided to take something, justifying that it was probably already on my bill. Indeed it might have been freely given if I had asked, but I made it seem surreptitious. Not only did I do wrong, I lessened my good witness before my friend. If it had been a gold coin I wouldn't have touched it. Yet here I had risked my standing before God with something that amounted to nothing. Indeed, I even threw it away later in anger towards myself.

The point is, I did this as a supposedly mature Christian. I let a stupid, simple act tarnish my witness. We are all representatives of our Lord. If people can not sense a difference in us, what will ever let them believe we are different from the world.

Let your decisions be made in this life always with a view to your future life. Do others see our Lord in you? One does not have to be an important person in this world to have an important mission. Our mission is to let Him have His perfect way with us. Only in dying to self can our full potential be reached in Him.

Decide this day who you will serve. It is a daily decision and only our actions will reveal that decision. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. What say you?