

Introduction

Series

Joshua “go in” - after leadership and before leadership
At the gateway

I. Decisions

1. The Road Not Taken - Robert Frost
 - pointedly ponders the ways and the decisions of life and where they lead
2. God has honored us with certain freedoms
 - in your hands
 - His image
 - “dominion” - rule - to take care of
 - most see it as a moral capacity
 - freedom to decide right and wrong

3. Just two

Two roads

Two ways and pathways

Two destinations

At the end of all - His way or my way

Two options

-serve God or not

-seek God or not

-focus on God or not

!!).

The lie of neutrality

Default to self

-default to self-preservation

-default to self interest

-default to self comfort (pleasure)

And to go His requires I turn loose of my way

Examples

-Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God (Heb 11:23-25)

-Pilate chose - crucify

-Jesus chose - not my will but thine

II. The Importance of Decisions

1. Involves opportunities
 - options - career, spouse, hair styles, clothing, churches
 - Think about Starbucks - whole bean, bold/ light, with Mocha
2. Involves directions
 - leanings
 - move that way
 - moving now the way you’ve been moving
3. Choose one means to reject the other
 - “We create our lives by virtue of the choices we make”

Our choices produce acts which produce character and character eventual becomes permanent”

Choose to be married means to not be un-married

4. “Big decisions don’t determine our lives... small ones do.”

A. Small lies - set you up for bigger ones

B. Gamble a little - set up to lose a lot

C. Dabble in porn - set up for adultery

III. Joshua’s Decision

1. Honored God

-devoted regardless of consequences

2. Led his family

-always watching

-always imitating

-always recording

He led his family in a bold and clear way - modeled his convictions

3. Gave priority

-this is important

-clarity in a dark place

-forces others to “take sides”

4. Gave direction

-how do we live? - the decisions we make

-he did not force others - my and my house

Joshua encouraged God’s way

Did not force God’s way

You see THEY had to decide for themselves

5. !!). Took responsibility - could’ve said nothing

IV. My Decisions

1. A personal choice

2. It makes a difference

-if you’re all in, inside your heart

3. Can’t go back

-thought this morning about the decisions you’ve made

-problems bought on yourself

-directions you’ve taken

-can’t call back an angry word

-can’t go back and change the friends you’ve hung out with

-can’t go back and witness to someone who’s died

In our hands

Jacob and Esau - Esau sold his birthright

Bowl of Pottage

He decided

All who followed were influenced