

Choices

Luke 15:11-24

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I. Introduction

A. I was in the 9th grade when my mother sent me to the department store to buy a new suit, shirt and tie for Easter. Instead of buying a suit, shirt and tie, I took all the money and purchased a tan sport coat. I regretted that choice for years.

II. The Power of Choice (vv 11-12)

A. The younger son requested his portion.

1. The younger son would get 1/3 of the estate upon his father's death.
2. We don't know what motivated this son to make such a decision.

B. The father respected his son's choice.

1. Such a request probably hurt this father; after all, he was a good father that had provided for his family.
2. The father knew this was a bad choice but respected the son's choice and let him go.
 - i. The son leaves with his father's wealth.
 - ii. The father could have had him whipped and stoned for disobedience.

Illustration: Imagine your child asking you for a check in the amount of 1/3 of your life insurance policy.

C. God is the good father that respects the power of our choices.

1. God created us in His own image and gave us power to make choices.
2. Some of the choices we make may grieve God but He respects our choice.

Illustration: God respected our choices to go to the club, get high, and have another baby out of wedlock. God could have stopped us but He chose not to, ask Paul and Jonah.

III. The Problem With Bad Choices (vv 13-16)

A. The son made a bad choice and went to the far country.

1. The far country represents broken fellowship with the Father. The son gathered all he had and left home.
2. The far country does not have to be that far in distance. You can be in the church and be in a far country.

B. He wasted his possessions.

1. In the Greek it means he scattered his wealth like winnowing grain.
2. In the far country we waste what God has given us. We waste money, health, time, and creativity.

Illustration: What a waste when single men get women pregnant, single women dating married men, and anyone getting drunk and high.

C. Then he began to be in want.

1. After the waste always comes the want.
2. He found himself doing things he could never have imagined. He began to slop hogs. For a Jew this is the ultimate humiliation.

Story: An eagle that lived among the chickens. A chicken mentality is shacking, drugs, adultery, prejudice, and playa hating.

IV. The Possibility Of Correcting Past Choices (vv 17-24)

A. Finally the story changes when "he came to himself".

1. He began to think about some past choices and makes up his mind to correct them.
2. There is nothing stronger than a made up mind. An example is the woman with an issue of blood.

B. What was his plan to correct past choices?

1. Return to the Father.
2. Repent from his sins.
3. Remain a faithful servant.

C. It is not too late to correct some past choices. The devil will remind you...

You got drunk, but say "I am correcting that".

You stole from God...

You got pregnant and not married...

You lost your temper...

You were jealous...

You lied...

You lost your faith...