Spirit-led Decision-Making, Session 2

INTRODUCTION

- I think that God has placed before us in our choice making really only two choices and that is to be led by the flesh or led by the spirit.
- And that's a strong statement because remember we began by saying that there's this whole area of our life that was our liberty.

1 Enemies of the Cross Set Their Minds on Earthly Things

Philippians 3:15–21

- Brethren, join in following my example and note those who so walk as you have us for a pattern.
- They are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame.
- Who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven from which also we eagerly wait for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- As Paul talks about how you live. It just seems like he's only giving two choices. And there's not this gray space in the middle where you just do the best you can.

2 Led by the Flesh or Led by the Spirit

Romans 8:5–11

- What does it mean to be led by the flesh? you're worldly. Your body is actually driving a lot of your decision.
- It's not miraculous. it has to do with our motives. I'm being led by some desire of the flesh or lust of the eyes and pride of life.
- I do know one place to get information from God about how to live. It doesn't have all the answers in easy form, but at least I know for sure who the source is.
- Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh. That's it. Not hard to understand, right?

3 Friendship With the World or Put On Christ

Colossians 3:2–18

- Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Are y'all sensing a middle ground here?
- Put off these bad things. Sometimes it's emotions. Sometimes it's bad actions. Sometimes it's bad thoughts, enmities, and those kind of things.
- Principle of displacement, I call it. If you can put on these positive things, the negative things don't keep influencing you.

- Husbands, wives, fathers, children, masters, slaves, everyday life, relationships. And we might think, oh, well, that's my business, who I marry and all it. Well, no.

4 Paul's Foundation: Please God, Save Self, Save Others

1 Corinthians 9:27

- Paul had two foundational elements in his mission, his life mission. The first one is to be saved to please God personally. saving others is the other.
- The blocks in any row are the why for the blocks above them and the rows above are the how for the decisions below.
- Be prepared for the upper blocks to have to be knocked over because we're not in control of those things. But also be prepared to not let these get knocked over.
- There's nothing in our life that's in and of itself. It's all connected to things. Either it's helping me accomplish or it's standing in the way of something I need to do.
- If we could see our lives as a series of hows that are all rooted in pleasing God, man, what a difference it would make.

5 What Should Be at the Bottom of This Pyramid?

- To save myself, I need devotion time. I need time with God. I need time to learn his word and pray and build my own faith.
- What would be the bottom block of a decision process led by the flesh? pleasure, fun, right? Pleasing myself.
- There's something missing in the picture, right? This is a respectable person. What's important though is what's down there.
- It's a different way of thinking about a decision, but it also requires you to know your heart.

6 What Makes a Good Decision? God Judges the Heart

- I am so thankful God does not judge me by the outcome of my decisions.
- What makes a good decision? It's not a successful outcome. It's not whether it's popular in the world.
- God judges the heart. Every way of man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts.

THE CHALLENGE

I'm challenging you to say you better think about that. And when you're thinking about it, remember this verse from Jeremiah. The heart's deceitful above all things and by the way, desperately wicked. Who can know it?

MY NOTES