

Choices & Consequences

Sunday AM 01/17/21

Introduction:

There was a game show on television called "Truth or Consequences." They would ask you a question and if you got the answer wrong you had to perform some kind of task. The contestants had a choice to play but not the "consequences". Such is life.

Dr. Martin Kohe in "Your Greatest Power" said, "The greatest power a person possesses is his power to choose."

Zig Ziglar "Every choice you make has an end."

John Maxwell "Life is a matter of choice, and every choice you make, makes you."

Bible passages often make this point. ***Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.***

Steven A. Covey wrote, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." "We are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences of our actions."

I) Major Point

A) We are free moral agents.

1. We can act wisely or foolishly, i.e. jump off a bridge or stay on the bridge.
2. ***Joshua 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."***

B) Choices have consequences/outcomes.

1. We might not know the consequences.

2. We don't get to select those consequences.

II) **We Can Choose To Obey God or Sin (If I choose to sin, there will be results.)**

A) **Genesis 3.**

1. Adam and Eve told to not eat of the tree of knowledge and they were told the consequences.

Genesis 3:2 *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*

2. Satan comes along.

Genesis 3:4 *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

3. Did Eve know? How could she had known all the consequences, fear of God, being cast out of the garden, pain of childbearing, physical death, etc.

B) **Doing something wrong only one time can have life long consequences.**

1. High School Seniors decided to pull a prank and got carried away. They actually committed a 3rd degree felony. Which in some states can have a fine up to \$10,000 and/or jail time from 2 to 10 years.
 - a. The school and DA decided to not prosecute but the Seniors were not allowed to be a part of the graduation ceremony.
 - b. One irate parent responded, "What kind of a message are we sending to our youth? That one mistake can ruin the rest of their lives?" Yes.

- c. One drunk riding mistake can end your life or the life of others, one experiment with drugs can kill you “Lenny Bias”, one indiscretion can end your marriage, etc.
2. One word can have long range consequences.

Matthew 12:36 *"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."*

- a. One word spoken in anger can end a friendship.
 - b. One lie can ruin your reputation or the reputation of others.
 - c. One curse word can end your influence for good, etc.
3. Neglecting or violating one commandment can cause a person to be lost.

Luke 18:21 *And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." 22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

- a. Personal favoritism and partiality.

James 2:1 *My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?*

- b. Don't have to break every law to be a law breaker.

James 2:9 *but if you show partiality, you commit sin,*

and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

C) David in **2 Samuel 11**.

2 Samuel 11:2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. **3** So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" **4** Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. **5** And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

1. Sins committed by David—lust, coveting, adultery, deception, murder.

2 Samuel 12:10 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' **11** "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **12** 'For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun....**14** NKJV **14** "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

2. Consequences- death of the child conceived, violence in his own household which lead to murder, public humiliation, rebellion,

death of Absalom.

3. Did David think of these consequences?

2 Samuel 12:13 *So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.*

4. David did repent and his life was spared but the consequences remained.

D) In Jesus we have deliverance from the eternal consequences.

Romans 5:9 *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

1. We are free from the slavery of sin, **Romans 6.15-16**.
2. As Christians we are free when we confess our sins to God.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

III) When We Have Sinned, Repented, and Still Face Consequences.

A) Warning to all of us.

Luke 13:1 *There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*

1. The people thought they saw a connection between these deaths and their sins but Jesus said no.

2. Job's friends thought there was a connection between his sins and his misfortune.

B) How do we respond?

1. Bitterness, anger, or humility and faith?
2. How did David respond?

2 Samuel 15:24 *There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city. 25 Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. 26 "But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."*

Conclusion:

There are times we do dumb things and are fortunate to not have anything permanently bad happen. There are times there are long-lasting consequences. We don't know before hand which will be which. But our ability to choose will determine our ultimate outcome in life. **Isaiah 55:6** *Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*