Choose Life Or Choose Death
Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Objective: Help each realize the choice we are called to make.

Reading: Deuteronomy 30:11-20.

Memory: Deuteronomy 30:11: "N_w_l_a_c_y_t_i_n_t_d_f_y_o_b_y_r_."

Introduction:
1. I ate in a fast food restaurant last week. It was horrible. I ordered what I thought I wanted, but it really wasn't, and ordering a-la-cart cost me more than what it should have. I wish I had just asked for a # 7. An easy option, but I made a lousy choice.
2. Sometimes the choices we have to make are really simple and obvious. Would you like coffee this morning or not? Sometimes they are more difficult; which tax forms would you like to file?
3. Sometimes we don’t really understand the choices that are set before us and we wind up choosing something we don’t really want.
4. Today, each one of us has a very serious choice to make. It should be a very easy choice.

We need to understand the choice that stands before us. (WHAT?)

The choice that stands before each one of us today is the very same choice that was offered to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 30. It is simply the choice of life or death and we ought not be confused or misled. Let's look at the two choices and understand them plainly.

Deuteronomy 30:15. "See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction."

1. The Choice of Death and Destruction.

A. You choose the death option by hesitating or refusing to choose.
   1. Could choose this one intentionally by having a rebellious heart. But who would intentionally?
   2. But, make no choice and this is the one you get. Choose this one by simply doing nothing. The thinking may be that I will choose to follow God when I have more time. Later, not now – so the answer to God is NO, I will not follow you right now. So you choose death right now.
   3. Neglect to consciously choose, and you have chosen death. God says, “follow Me” and you don’t follow, you have chosen to not follow.
   4. Expect God to be absent from your life. Expect to not receive any special blessings.
   5. This is LIKE; Not choosing to get off the train tracks. What would happen if you saw your 4 year old playing in the highway and failed to make the decision to go rescue them?
   6. Unless you choose to enter a covenant with God, you are choosing not to.
   7. This option includes “adversity” or “destruction”. If you follow worldly ways, you will get worldly troubles. Broken relationships, etc. Hardships may come anyway, as a testing, but God is the One who is in charge of guidance and blessings. Unless you choose to be with Him, you are choosing to be without His guidance, His life wisdom, and His blessings.

B. You choose the death option by following other “gods”.
   1. There are many “gods’ which we are prone to follow;
      b. God of Things. Cannot serve both God and Mammon. Covetousness is idolatry. Idolatry is following other gods.
   2. Some get caught up in the cares of this world and their spiritual seed gets choked out! Such weeds include peer pressure, riotous and selfish living and selfish desires, getting so busy with “good” things that we don’t have time to put God first.
   3. If you place “things” above your relationship with God, know that they can’t save you or guide you.
   4. How do you feel when someone’s favorite chair is more important to them than you are? How might we expect God to “feel” when our house or car or stereo or girlfriend is more important to us than God's love and help?

C. You choose the death option by following “self”.
   1. Many folks will make a god of themselves, following their own thoughts and ways.
   2. You are not rich enough to get to heaven. You can’t pay the price of your sins.
   3. You are not good enough to get to heaven. You have committed sins already.
4. You are not strong enough to get to heaven. Satan has a hold on your soul. You can’t pry it loose or rescue it yourself. You need help.

5. You are not smart enough to get to heaven. You don’t know how.

6. Proverb 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

**We do have another option.** Deuteronomy 30:15, “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.” The God of love and mercy has set a better choice before us. Because God wants to bless us, He has provided and it is possible for each of us to choose;

**II. The Choice of Life and Prosperity.**

A. This choice is **NOT** too difficult for you.

1. Deuteronomy 30:11, “Now what I am commanding you today is **NOT** too difficult for you or beyond your reach.”

2. Some think; “I can’t be good enough!” Your loving Father will help you if your heart is in it!

3. Everybody can handle it. It doesn’t cost more than you have. It is not beyond your ability athletically or morally. It is not like you have to be super intelligent. Doesn’t involve high finance or travel, or eloquent speech. Everyone is eligible. Everybody is capable.

4. Romans 10:6-11, “6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: ‘Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.’”

5. Folks often think this is too tough for them. It is not. You KNOW what you have to do and have the ability to do it.

6. Simply acknowledge Him as Lord, and live in obedience to His instructions as if He really is the Lord you profess Him to be.

B. Choose life by clinging to God.

1. Deuteronomy 30:19b-20, “Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life…”

2. With openness and sincerity. Genuinely make Him your “lord”. Listen to His voice. Hold fast to God in Christ!

3. You can’t hold fast to God by choosing Mohammed, or Confucius, or “any old faith walk”. God is now accessible only through Jesus.

   a. John 14:6, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

   b. Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

C. Choose life by the obedience of faith.

1. Same choice in different words in Mark 16:16, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

   a. **Believes**; relates the concept of clinging to the Lord. Of trusting in what He says. Belief and obedience are the same word in the original. Inseparable concepts.

   b. **is baptized**; Not to be left out. This is part of that obedience of faith. Will you do it? This too, is not to difficult for you.

   c. **not believe**; infers a non-choice which leads to death and destruction. No real interest?

2. Can’t pick and choose which parts to follow. Must “choose” it all if He is to be Lord.

   a. Matthew 7:21-23, “21 Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’
b. If you are knowingly neglecting or disobeying any part of His instructions, then you have not really taken Him as your Lord and you are making the wrong choice.

**So What?**

The choice that stands before you today should be obvious. Don't get confused on such an easy and obvious choice. Choose consciously and intentionally. For you and your children, choose life by following God in Christ, Jesus.

**Closing Prayer:**
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Memory: Deuteronomy 30:11
“N_ w_ l a_ c_ y_ t_ i_ n_ t_ d_ f_ y_ o_ b_ y_ r_.”

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The choice that stands before each one of us today is the very same choice that was offered to the Israelites.

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A. You choose the death option by hesitating or refusing to choose.

B. You choose the death option by following other “gods”.

C. You choose the death option by following “self”.
   Proverb 14:12

II. The Choice of Life and Prosperity.
A. This choice is NOT too difficult for you.
   Deuteronomy 30:11 Romans 10:6-11

B. Choose life by clinging to God.
   Deuteronomy 30:19b-20 John 14:6 Acts 4:12

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   Mark 16:16 Matthew 7:21-23

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Choose life by following God in Christ Jesus.