

CHOICES

WHY EVERY DECISION YOU MAKE MATTERS

Pastor Rich Wilkerson, Sr. / October 4, 2020

Adam & Eve "The Paradox of Choice" Part 1

Genesis 3:1-13 – Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, you must not eat from any tree in the garden?"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,"³ But God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

PEOPLE LIKE TO HAVE CHOICES ... HOWEVER, THERE IS A PHENOMENON KNOWN AS "THE PARADOX OF CHOICE," WHICH SIMPLY MEANS, THE MORE CHOICES THERE ARE, THE LESS SATISFIED PEOPLE BECOME.

ADAM & EVE HAD IT ALL!

Genesis 1:27-30 – So God created mankind in his own image in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed bearing plant on the face of the earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.³⁰ And to all the beast of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground --everything that has the breath of life in it – I give you every green plant for food." And it was so.

Genesis 2:19,20a – Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

ADAM & EVE CHOSE TO BELIEVE THAT TALKING WITH GOD EVERY EVENING WOULD ALWAYS HAPPEN.

Genesis 3:7-9 – Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

ADAM & EVE HAD SO MANY CHOICES THAT.. "THE PARADOX OF CHOICE" DESTROYED THEM. THEIR FINAL CHOICE WAS A BAD ONE.

Genesis 3:4-6 – You will not Certainly die, the serpent said to the woman.⁵ For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some of it and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

LIKE ADAM & EVE ... WE HAVE IT ALL- IN MANY WAYS

WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD FOR GRANTED LIKE ADAM & EVE DID.

Exodus 3:4,5 – When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

1 Samuel 3:10 – The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Isaiah 1:18a – "Come now let us settle the matter"

Isaiah 43:6 – Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; state the case for your innocence.

Jeremiah 33:3 – "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Hebrews 4:16 – Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

JUST BECAUSE ADAM & EVE GOT CAUGHT IN THE "THE PARADOX OF CHOICE" IS NO REASON FOR YOU AND ME TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS!

EVERY SELFISH/DISOBEDIENT CHOICE WE MAKE IMPACTS EVERYONE IN TIME.

1 John 2:15 – Do you not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the father is not in them.¹⁶ For everything in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life comes not from the father, but from the world.¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.