

Sermon Notes – Choice

The following is a series of thoughts/ideas for you to use in a sermon – obviously how you use them, and what else you add, is entirely up to you!

Matthew 7: 13-14 The Narrow and Wide Path - The Bible tells us that the path that we want to walk leads to destruction, but the difficult path leads to life. We can choose which path we take.

Why do we make the choices we make? – some ideas include peer pressure, internal values/motivations, feelings/emotions, personal life experience, selfishness, expectations of self or others, cultural norms.

Why are we given choice at all? – Genesis 2: 15-17, maybe?!

Sometimes the choices we make have major consequences...

Bad – Examples include:

Lot (Genesis 13 – see what happened in chapter 19)

David (with Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11)

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

Good – Examples include:

Disciples following Jesus (helpful verses include Luke 6. 12-16, Mark 10. 28-31, Luke 10.23 – 24)

Daniel abstaining from the King's food (Daniel 1)

Saul/Paul's conversion - a quick change when confronted with God. (Acts 9)

What could those choices be for us? Relationships, drugs, sex, career, education, where we live....

So, what should inform those decisions? Not in expectation of a reward. But what is pleasing to God and what is agreeable with the Scripture, even if it's hard (narrow path).

The idea of being 'in the world but not of the world' might also be relevant here:

Romans 12: 1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...

Romans 12 20-21 If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

John 17: 14-15 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.