

MAKING THE "RIGHT" CHOICE

1Kings 18:17-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The decision to be a Christian is the most important of a person's life
- B. This lesson reemphasizes the demands of our past decisions as well as calling you each one to realize the necessity of considering "all the angles" when making a decision
- C. It also calls on each one to make a "right decision" while there is still opportunity

DISCUSSION:

I. REQUIRES INTELLIGENT CONSIDERATION

Lk 14:28-33

- A. Gospel obedience is not by "accident" or "blindly"
Matt 28:19
- B. We must count the cost and be willing to accept heavy sacrifices Lk 14:33
- C. We are not promised an easy road - in fact just the opposite 2Tim 3:12
- D. But victory is promised to the faithful Rev 2:10

II. IMPOSES OBLIGATIONS ON A PERSON

Josh 24:14-24

- A. A pledge to serve God if we keep our idols is meaningless v.14
 - 1. Our pride and vanity
 - 2. Our recreation, entertainment, jobs, etc.
- B. Jehovah s a holy God, a "jealous God" v.19
- C. Therefore, we must act
 - 1. Put away foreign gods (any rival affection)
 - 2. Incline our hearts unto Jehovah, hear Him v.23

III. REQUIRES COURAGE TO ACT IN OBEDIENCE

Jud 7:2,3ff

- A. Courage to depend upon the strength of God, not on ourselves, numbers, strength or might
 - 1. Note from our text Elijah's dependence on God
 - 2. He stood alone against a wicked king
- B. God cannot use the "fearful and trembling" Deut 20:1,8
- C. The "fearful" will be lost Rev 21:8

IV. INVOLVES GIVING OURSELVES COMPLETELY Lk 9:57-62

- A. Neither material consideration nor any earthly obligations are first
- B. Doesn't take much of a man
 - 1. No great education is required
 - 2. No great prestige, honor, etc
 - 3. But, it does take all there is of a man (woman)

C. Christ doesn't want those who "look back"

- 1. Such are not "fit" (suited) for the kingdom of God
- 2. The decision to serve Christ is a "long term" decision -- it is for all time

CONCLUSION:

- A. The decision to serve Christ requires mature judgment. It is not a children's game; one should not be rushed by unreasoned emotions, or influenced by family, business or social considerations.
- B. Yet, despite the cost, it is the best and greatest decision of life. It alone has to do with our eternal soul, and its destiny
- C. If not to Christ -- to whom shall we go? Jhn 6:66-69