

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Making Good Choices

Luke 10:41-42

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

As followers of Christ we have made the great choice to accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. Halleluiah! Of course this choice guarantees eternal life in heaven with the Father. This however is not the only choice we will have to make. In life we are bombarded with choices. Some great, some small, but choices, nonetheless, confront each of us daily. An area of vulnerability and weakness in many Christian lives is the failure to make good choices. If you want to experience misery and torture, live as a Christian and continue to make bad choices. Imagine for a moment, a person who loves chocolate and they find a key to a chocolate factory and lock themselves in the factory. They are surrounded by all the chocolate they could ever dream of. They can see it and smell it, yet it is beyond their reach. The chocolate is in the building, but separated in the factory by glass doors that require a separate access key to enter. They are inside and so close but are unable to receive their hearts desire that lies within the factory. This person went in without knowledge and made a choice to lock themselves out of a blessing. This is what happens in the church. Many believe that just attending church and being in the building alone is enough, or being a believer in Christ alone is enough. In actuality, the choices we make once we are in the body determine the quality of life we will have and the level of success we will experience in Christ. It grieves my heart to see people in the church continue to make the same bad choices year after year. They come to church. They are in the building, They hear the word. They see the blessing. They smell the aroma of the Holy Spirit and the abundant life that Jesus promised is within their grasp, yet when it is time to make the right choice, they will often resort to how they have always done things; consequently, nothing changes or ever gets better. This is misery and torture especially when we are in the midst of the power of God and we see others progressing and living the abundant life. God is not a respecter of persons; He does not honor one over the other. He does reward us for making good choices.

When we examine the above text: Jesus is confronted by Martha, who is upset because her sister Mary will not help her serve, and she wants Jesus to force Mary to help her serve. Jesus makes a profound statement relating to choices in the passage. In essence He rebuked Martha and rewarded Mary. He also showed us how to prioritize. As important as serving is, it was more important at that time to choose to sit at the feet of Jesus and receive the word. The difference in Martha and Mary in this passage is the choices they made. Martha made a bad choice and she was paying for it with frustration. Mary made a good choice and she was rewarded with peace. **We will always pay for a bad choice.** The worst part of paying for a bad choice is, not being able to determine what the cost

will be. The cost of what we pay is God's decision, not ours. God broke me every way a man could be broken as a result of making bad choices in my life. I was financially broke, spiritually broke, mentally broke and if whatever else could have been broke, I was. I could no longer afford the cost of making bad choices. No of us can afford to do so. It is only by the grace of God that we have been given another chance. You are in the body, you have access, and the abundant life is just a choice away. Make good choices and receive every reward that God has for your life. Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill