Have You Made Up Your Mind? (Matt 12:30)

A. A person who cannot make up his or her mind is indecisive.

1. Jokingly we call them “wishy-washy” – they “hem-haw” – they “beat around the bush” – they “straddle the fence.”

2. Seriously, indecisiveness is a personal trait that is very dangerous to our souls.

3. Indecisiveness is described in various ways.

Matt 13:20-21 – But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word & immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Eph 4:13-15 – till we all come to the unity of the faith & of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to & fro & carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —

Jas 1:6-8 – But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven & tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James tells us how to solve the problem of being indecisive:

Jas 4:8 – Draw near to God & He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; & purify your hearts, you double-minded.

B. In matters relating to our service to God, the inability to make decisions poses a serious threat to our salvation.

1. In those California wildfires, many had literally seconds to make the right decision or they would die in the fire.

2. There is a fire coming that is far worse than a forest fire, & we must not be indecisive as to what we must do to escape it.

a. Jesus is coming in flaming fire to take vengeance on some, & to deliver others from wrath (2 Th 1:7-9; 1 Th 1:10).
3. When Peter warned, “Be saved from this perverse generation”, 3000 people were decisive & responded by being baptized for the remission of their sins.

   a. I’m certain there were people there that day that were indecisive; they remained in their sins.

4. But once we have learned to be decisive, our purpose then is to save others from eternal punishment in the fire of hell.

   - [Strive to] save others, snatching them out of the fire; on others take pity [but] with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh & polluted by their sensuality.

   - If it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me & my house, we will serve the LORD.

   - And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me & my house, we will serve the LORD.

   - If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD

I. GOD DEMANDS DECISIVENESS

   A. Joshua saw tendencies in the Israelites to be indecisive about Jehovah.

   1. “How long will you falter between 2 opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him” (1 Kgs 18:21).

   2. Then the LORD gave the people a sign that would help them make up their minds.
C. **But** there’s more to being decisive than making a good decision now & again

1. Being decisive requires constant, daily faithfulness to God (Col 3:2; Matt 6:33).

2. We can easily get out of the habit of making good decisions – by making a few poor ones.

II. **INDECISIVENESS MAKES US UNFIT TO SERVE GOD & TO GO TO HEAVEN**

A. **God** has given us the **power** to be the best or worst person he or she can be.

1. The **power** is in the ability to CHOOSE – to make decisions.

2 Tim 2:15 – *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God*, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Pet 1:10 – Brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call & election sure**, for if you do these things [f, v, k, sc, p, g, bk, l] you will never stumble

*The problem is that some people never make up their minds where to place their loyalty.*

So they act evasively in order to postpone having to make a commitment to any decision.

And what is the problem with that non-choice?

2 Tim 2:20-22 – But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold & silver, but also of wood & clay, **some for honor & some for dishonor**. [Vessels of wrath prepared for destruction; Rom 9:22] 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified & useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 **Flee** also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2. Is your character the result of never being able to make up your mind?

3. Is your life the result of playing both sides: “some of self & some of Thee.”
4. Are you a vessel of honor in the house of God or a vessel of dishonor?

   a. That all depends on your choices, your willingness to make decisions that will enable you to serve God.

C. Making the right decision at the right time has never been an easy thing to do.

   1. Why are rivers crooked? They follow a course of least resistance.

   2. {Contrast Joseph (Potiphar’s wife) w/ David (Bathsheba). Barnabus w/ Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 4:36-5:10)}


   [We are called upon very early in life to make life decisions that will determine where we will spend an eternity.]

III. HOW TO BE DECISIVE

1 Pet 1:13-18 – Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” 17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

A. “Gird up the loins of your mind & be sober” – be alert & think straight”.

   1. Control the feelings you may have that threaten to overthrow the best decisions you can make.

   2. We don’t have to spin out of control before we learn the importance of being decisive in doing the will of God (Lk 15:11-24).

B. Let me remind us of two very decisive people.
1. **David**: his mind was prepared for action when the lion & the bear threatened his father’s sheep (1 Sam 17:34-37).

2. **Abigail**: her mind was prepared for action when David threatened to kill Nabal (1 Sam 25).

   a. A decisive (godly) person will never hesitate to do the right thing – because he has prepared his mind...

**C. How would you characterize your spiritual life: decisive or indecisive?**

1. How easily do you make the right decisions for the good of your soul?
2. Do you have the vision to see the advantage of making the right decisions?
3. Do you have the vision to see the danger of making the wrong decisions?
4. Do you hesitate making decisions that require personal sacrifice to the Lord?

**F. These questions can apply in many areas:**

1. Daily Bible study & prayer
2. Teaching & setting the proper example
3. Exhibiting love for your spiritual family
4. Visiting the sick & elderly
5. Being hospitable
6. Repenting from sin immediately
7. Obeying the Lord in all aspects of life

**A. Indecision carries a heavy penalty.**

1. The one who put his had to the plow & looked back was unfit for the kingdom (Lk 9:57-62).
2. There is no middle ground, either we are “servants of sin to death, or (servants) of obedience to righteousness” (Rom 6:16).