

## **Scriptures for Sermon:**

### **Life Church Boston**

Michael Dixon; Sunday, March 10, 2013

**Matt. 10:32-42...Pickers can be Choosy! Choose Wisely, your life is a product of your Choices**

#### **Matthew 10:32-42**

<sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn

“a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup> a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>37</sup> “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup> “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

<sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

#### **Joshua 24:14-22 Joshua and the People**

<sup>14</sup> “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

<sup>21</sup> But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

#### **Psalms 55: 9-14**

<sup>9</sup> Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their words, for I see violence and strife in the city.

<sup>10</sup> Day and night they prowl about on its walls; malice and abuse are within it.

<sup>11</sup> Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets.

<sup>12</sup> If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. <sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,



<sup>14</sup> with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers.

## **Military Pickers... Ask, Trust, Obey**

1. Picking Sides,
2. Picking war,
3. Picking battles,
4. Picking priorities,
5. Picking others and Being Picked by others

### **- Discussion Questions**

1. Do you shy away from religious conversations at work, afraid of what people might say, or what they have already said?
2. What areas around wisdom, strength and joy do you need God?
3. Are there any spiritually Violent acts you need to take around your own walk that you are willing to share?
4. Is there a conversation God has been urging you to have that you have been putting off?
5. At points we often wish God would speak more loudly, are there any things that help you trust in the "quiet" times ?

### **Understanding The Bible**

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV) Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages that we will be using in today's sermon at Life Church. We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). If so, don't be alarmed - the passages below are really from the Bible even though they are in modern English.

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. English has certainly changed a lot since then! Since you probably don't speak Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, you're going to have to read the Bible in translated form. **At Life Church we believe that since you're going to read an English translation of the Bible you might as well use an up to date one - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**

**Thank you for joining us! You can access our sermons and our other resources at our web site:**  
<http://www.lifechurchboston.org/> **God Bless You!!!**

# Choose Carefully!

## Your Life is a product of your Choices!



# Which is better Bigger or Smaller?



We have choices all around us!

Your Life is a product of your choices  
Your choices are based on what you  
think is real.

Matt. 10:32-39

- \* The Kingdom New Testament- by NT Wright
- \* So, everyone who owns up to being on my side, I will own them before my father in heaven. But anyone who disowns me in front of others, I will disown that person before my father in heaven. Don't think that it is my job to bring peace on the earth. I didn't come to bring peace-I came to bring a sword! I came to divide a man from his father, a daughter from her mother, and a daughter in law from her mother in law. Yes, you'll find your enemies inside your own front door. If you love your father or mother more than me, you won't deserve me. Anyone who doesn't pick up their cross and follow me doesn't deserve me. If you find your life you'll lose it, and if you lose your life because of me you will find it. ... Matt 10:32-39 KNT

# Can we change our Choices?



## \* Luke 23 :39

- \* One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”
- \* 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.[d]” 43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

# 1. Picking Sides

- \* Matt 10: <sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me (owns up to being on my side) before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.
- \* Choose who you will serve... As for me and my house... I choose the Lord... Josh 24

## 2. Picking our Battles

- \* Picking war/Battles,<sup>34</sup> “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.<sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn
- \* “a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— (WHY This choice. The best example is a counter example... Ruth, in the line of Jesus!)<sup>36</sup> a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’<sup>[c]</sup>
- \* A mature adult knows which battles to pick with a child... especially a teenager. Want to talk about creating war inside a family.
- \* To pick battles we have to be willing to be violent... What does that look like?

# What Godly violence looks like...

- \* It starts at home... Not with the family, but with ourselves. We must challenge ourselves in areas that Christ is not lord. In areas that hinder us from hearing from the Lord. It is how we clear our radio so we can get directions. We have the flesh and the World in our lives Kill them!
- \* It then starts with those who we let around us. Are you willing to shoot a child, your best friend? If the situation commands it? Crystal talked about this last time, how as soldiers you have to see even children as your potential killer. Who do you let near you? Who do you let influence you. You cannot get rid of all of your Judas' (people god chooses to causes the operation to get completed, that may not be Godly at all!), but you can get rid of their influence on you. Ps. 55 is one of my favorites.. You see, enemies are easy... to really hurt us requires those closest to us... Family, or Friends... We don't have to go looking for battles, just living Godly lives, or going from the world to Faith can cause all sorts of tensions.

# What does Godly Violence Really look like?

- \* Having to say no to a family member who wants to give bootleg videos. What are you- Judging us?
- \* Having to tell you friend that their flirting is wrong.... Especially if they are a Christian at your church.
- \* No Ma, Please don't give the grandkids a TV.
- \* Asking to change the TV station because You don't want to be tempted. Awe man, are you some kind of goody goody?
- \* From the movies.. The villain in the Matrix movie said, I know this steak is not real, but it tastes so good.

# Picking priorities

- \* *37 “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.*
- \* DANIEL and the Hebrew boys, Chose Wisely and often without fear, and were probably ostracized by their peers who chose the safe routes... Until AFTER they are released and they were made into heros... You are making us look bad Daniel, I could just imagine JEWS saying about him. “Get with the program” and you will live. If we want to be extraordinary Christians we have to choose extraordinary things, knowing that the people around us will talk about us, call us nerds if we study, call us Holier than thou’s if we stand up for what is right, and in the end be jealous of what we stood for.

IF ITS  
IMPORTANT TO  
YOU, YOU WILL  
FIND A WAY.  
IF ITS NOT,  
YOU'LL FIND AN  
EXCUSE.

## The power of Priorities

***“Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the judgment that something is more important than fear.***

***The brave may not live forever but the cautious do not live at all.”***

**The Princess Diaries (2001), Prince of Genovia (Rene Auberjonois)**

# Picking God's People and being Picked

- \* <sup>40</sup> “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”
- \* We think of this one as people picking for representing Jesus, but do we pick those and serve those who serve God? Who are we picking to be around us? What behaviors do we reward? When someone wants to reward us- Because of what Jesus means to us, do we let them so they can get a prophet’s reward?

# Your Life is a product of your choices... What are you choosing? How can we discern God's will?

God makes it difficult- he doesn't always send the general... so what are we to do?

1. **Ask**- for HIS wisdom, HIS strength, HIS Joy (vital for dealing with post traumatic shock), for forgiveness, understanding in the Word, help from others- that is what the body is for...
2. **Trust**- That he has our back that He will make it clear when we make mistakes. He is in this with us, and is able to work all things for our good. Joshua with AI.
3. **Obey**- Don't be afraid to be violent with yourself first! Lord I Really need you, I blew it – again, You asked me to call a friend, so I did.

## How to Live this one...

PICK one or more of these and share

- \* Do you shy away from religious conversations at work, afraid of what people might say, or what they have already said?
- \* What areas around wisdom, strength and joy do you need God?
- \* Are there any spiritually violent acts you need to take around your own walk that you are willing to share?
- \* Is there a conversation God has been urging you to have that you have been putting off?
- \* At points we often wish God would speak more loudly, are there any things that help you trust in the “quiet” times?