

Which Path Will You Choose?

THEME: Ps 119:105- Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Example: Reality show... Imagine... 2 Choices (Survivor?)

- Describe two choices in detail
- Which would you choose and why?

Choice 1:

1. Dim flashlight with narrow beam and placed in the middle of the woods at night
2. ALWAYS night and dark – no moon, no stars
3. Told to find your way out – no map, no directions, no moss on trees, no stars, no idea which direction to go to find your way out.
4. You can choose ANY path you like – complete freedom to choose.
5. No timeline – BUT, if you do not die, you will be remove from the woods by the time you turn age 70
6. The woods are filled with vines, poison ivy, boulders, small ponds, and ditches.
7. You are barefoot.
8. Deadly beasts... lions, wolves, anacondas, alligators, water moccasins, funnel web spiders and more – lots of bugs, lizards, etc.
9. Imagine too that in the woods, there are little stashes of candy, jewelry, and even money you can grab and take and keep if you make your way out (some are hidden, some are out in the open).
10. Every so often – Well-area
11. There are nice restaurants to stop at to eat in.
12. Luxury hotels to stay at (awesome resorts) – cars, boats, rides,
13. Lots of your friends to see and hang out with
14. Even have sexual relations and your parents will never know (but you can get pregnant or get someone pregnant and you can get and STD)
15. You always FEEL alone, even though you are with other people
16. You can stay as long as you like – for every day you stay, you age by one year
17. For every 10 years you age you have to give up a finger or a toe
18. No first aid kit and no-one to help you. You are on your own.
19. When you finally make it out of the woods, you have just what you were able to pick up along the way – and your memories (good and bad)... and your wounds and missing fingers and toes.
20. All by yourself for the remainder of your life – just you and your memories and any treasure you are able to take with you. Still DARK

Choice 2:

1. You are placed in the woods with a map.
2. You have with you a very good friend who is experienced in the outdoors, has a backpack with everything you will need, and is a great encourager.

3. He/she also is a medic and has extra clothing and supplies, including devices to carry you/ride in if you get really tired.
4. The map shows the easiest and safest ways out of the woods. It shows you how to avoid deadly animals, tar pits, lakes filled with water moccasins and alligators.
5. The path is hard work and goes up and down mountains – it is a grueling path.
6. But, the sun and moon rise and set, there are stars, and the path has lighting so you can never miss it.
7. The map also shows where there is water and food (just simple food, nothing extravagant).
8. It shows cabins and tents to stay the night in – just simple cots. They are comfortable and dry but not heated or air conditioned.
9. Some have hot showers and are peaceful and quiet.
10. The path is well lit so you can't miss it yet the woods around the path are dark – pitch dark and full of scary things.
11. Along the way you will meet people who become friends, although your family is not there.
12. You are guaranteed to find the way out of the woods in 6-9 months... but you don't know exactly how long
13. There are luxury resorts and fancy restaurants along the way, but they are off the path and deep in the dark woods – you are encouraged NOT to stop there... but you can choose.
14. IF you stop at one you add another month to your trek through the woods.
15. And, you do lose a finger or toe IF you stop – each time you stop.
16. But, when you reach the edge of the woods, you are greeted by your family.
17. You are given an all-expense-paid holiday in a vacation resort of your dreams. Luxury accommodations, any food imaginable.
18. You gain any fingers or toes back that you lost and you are completely healed of any other ailment.
19. You are also provided with the husband/wife of your dreams – especially designed for you.
20. And given a marriage that will be filled with peace and joy forever – and never even the possibility of divorce or even anger and arguments.
21. And you are given your choice of a location anywhere on the earth to spend the rest of your life in peace and happiness, and with ANYTHING you want, as long as it does not break God's laws.
22. You can build the home of your dreams and choose any job you would like... all jobs include international travel and opportunities to do amazing things and see the most beautiful places on the earth.
23. The caveat is that you have to endure through the woods and stay on the path.
24. The path is very hard and you have to sacrifice to stay on the path.
25. BUT, it is lighted and pretty safe.
26. You may get cuts and scrapes along the way, but you are never alone and if you endure to the end for 6-9 months, you have an eternity of peace and abundance waiting for you.
27. The sun also rises and sets each day on this path in its future. Moon stars too.

- WHICH path would YOU choose?
- These two scenarios are VERY similar to the path God sets before us.

DARKNESS:

Pv 4:19- The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

Lk 6:39- Blind lead the blind – both fall into ditch

- There is no clear path to anywhere – life sort of goes in circles – work Monday-Friday and live for the weekends... and start over again

Mt 6:19-21- **Do not** lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal

Mt 7:13-14- Broad/wide is way leads to destruction - Narrow and difficult is the way that leads to life

Heb 11:25- enjoy passing pleasures of sin

- The ways of the world are NOT all bad – they can be very enjoyable – FOR A TIME
- EG- Know many brethren who left the church/God's way of life and were literally gone 20-30 years before they spiritually woke up – return with many mental and emotional scars

LIGHT

Jn 12:35- My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going

Ps 119:105- God's word is a light

Deut 4:5-6- What great nation is this who have such laws...

Ps 119:165- Guaranteed peace - Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.

CONCLUSION

- God has put before each of you TWO Choices.
Deut 30:19- I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live
- One way leads to passing pleasures in this life. There WILL BE good times in the world... but they lead to a feeling of futility and they do not last. They also involve pointless pain and heartache. That way is EASY to follow – you don't really need to think... you just act. The rewards include mental and emotional battle scars... and often physical suffering.

- The other way is hard – God’s way requires constantly being different and swimming against the pulls of the world. It takes courage and conviction. There are still difficulties and hurt... but NOT because we bring these things on ourselves. This way is hard, but it is a way that has the path to the reward clearly lit by God’s word. There is no doubt about the course. This is also the way that is full of answers. This way results in a conscience free of guilt. And an understanding of WHY suffering occurs. There are true blessings and real PEACE in this life. And the rewards at the end are unimaginable if you can hang in there and cross the finish line!
- God IS calling you and directing you to this second, difficult, but CLEAR path.
- He wants you to walk in the LIGHT, not in darkness. He wants you to know where you are going... but He will not force you down that path.
- You must choose your path, you must choose your challenge.
- Ironic thing is God TELLS you which choice is the best.
- The choice is yours – walk in darkness (and the passing pleasures of sin for a season) or walk in the light. The choice is yours... but the reward will affect you, your children, and your grandchildren.

Homework: Go home and talk to some of the FIRST GENERATION members in your local congregation. Ask them why they chose to walk in the light when they were previously firmly grounded in the world.

Christian Living Class: Scott Winnail

Title: Darkness or Light: Which Path Will you Choose?

Summary: I plan to begin with two “Survivor-type” of fictitious scenarios. One will be ripe with awesome experiences but also dire consequences (almost like a video game). At the end, there is mere existence with one’s memories, and the battle scars resulting from the choice. The second scenario will be very difficult and filled with many challenges, but the path will be safe and guaranteed, as will the reward at the end. I will then segue into a short Bible Study on Darkness and Light, ultimately showing the benefits of choosing the lighted path – God’s way of life directed by His “living Word.” I plan to leave the campers with a challenge – choose the path of “light.”