

Every decision leads to a destination.

Take a moment this morning and answer this question: *What is the worst decision you've ever made?*

Playing the game of Twister is really a game of decision-making. Because every decision you make leads to a destination. Whether it is Right-Foot Red, or Left-Hand Green, *every decision you make ultimately leads to a destination*. And if you want to win at Twister; you need to be able to not only think fast, you need to know the outcome of that decision because every decision has consequences and those consequences will determine if you are standing at the end of the game.

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When you are driving in the car and come to a 'T' in the road; turning right will lead you to one destination. Turning left at the 'T' will lead you to another destination.

When you are making decisions about dating or marriage, buying a house, selecting a job, or which group of friends you want to associate with; every decision leads to a destination. The big question is this: *Where are your decisions leading you?*

Some of you know all too well the feeling of looking back and asking, *'How did I end up here?'* It was never our intention, never our hopes and dreams to end up where we are; but that decision or series of decisions lead us to where we are today and that is not where we intended to go.

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And in the game of Twister we need to understand that *every decision leads to a destination*. And as our scripture lesson for today reminds us: **So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall.** 1 Corinthians 10:12

That was certainly the case for the character in our Old Testament lesson today. **David thought that he was certainly standing firm.** In 2 Samuel 8, David's victories are recounted one by one as he expanded his territory and brought peace to Israel. Then in verse 14 the writer notes that, *"The Lord gave David victory where he went."*

But chapter 11 begins by telling us that David made a decision not to go to war. I wonder if he was thinking at that point that he was standing firm. After all, his army had defeated the surrounding nations. David had extended Israel's boundaries to their greatest extent. As far as David was concerned; he was where he had intended to be.

When we grow content with where we are, when we think we are standing firm; that is when we need to be mindful of every decision that we make. Somehow we begin to think that we can do nothing wrong. And as we will see, that decision by David to stay in Jerusalem rather than lead his army into battle, will lead to a destination that leaves more people twisted in knots than a game of Twister.

Just follow David's decisions:

- Stayed home,
- Wandered on the roof,
- His eyes lingered on a UFO (Unclothed Female Object),
- He took what was not his, thereby disrespecting his friend Uriah,
- He committed adultery, breaking God's commandment,

- David attempted to cover up his disobedience,
- When the cover-up didn't go as planned, David conspired to commit murder.

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David's decisions remind me of someone who tells a lie and then has to tell another one and another one after that. Soon the lie has taken you somewhere you never intended to be. Like this story I recently read:

My sophomore year in high school, I had to do a current event presentation in front of the entire class with pictures and props.

Being the basketball fan that I am, I quickly chose the headline news – Ervin “Magic” Johnson announces he has HIV (yeah, I'm getting old). For one of my props, I paid my neighbor who was an incredible artist twenty dollars to draw a collage of Magic Johnson for me.

When he finished the picture, it was unbelievable. There was only one problem. In the bottom right hand corner of the picture, there was my neighbor's name, Robbie. I thought about erasing his name, but that wouldn't be right. It would be wrong for me to take credit for someone else's work. Then again, I did buy the picture and it was my idea. What would happen if I added my name? I gave into temptation and wrote my name on the picture. In fact, I wrote my name over the top of his.

The next day at school, everyone loved the picture. When they asked me if I drew it, the answer was simple – is my name on there? I intentionally made sure I never verbally said I drew the picture. That was until my teacher asked.

When my teacher asked me if I drew the picture, I had a decision to make. Tell the truth and get an A with some added that's incredible or lie and still get an A. All that was at stake in my mind was a little lie about a little name. So I lied.

The next day when I came to school, much to my dismay, my picture was on display in the Glass Case (the place of prized possessions for our school). Next to the picture it said by Jeremy McCarter in BOLD letters. I was also informed that someone from the city (not the school) newspaper was going to come and take my photo with my picture for the newspaper's Art section. “Uh Oh.”

To sum it up: I received an F on the project and because of that I lost my 4.0 GPA (and missed the principal's honor roll). I was grounded by my parents, and couldn't drive. This meant I had to walk 2 miles to work and 2 miles back for two weeks. I had to write an apology letter to my teacher and the neighbor across the street. My reputation was damaged with the teachers and the principal. All because I lied. There was more at stake than what I thought.

(Wise Choices Week 1 Message Outline, www.Open.Lifechurch.tv)

Have you ever found yourself there? One wrong decision lead to another and to another; and soon, instead of standing, you've fallen. Fallen hard and possibly taken others down with you. That's what happened to David!

And so that brings us back to Paul writing to the Corinthians. The opening verses of 1 Corinthians 10 served as a reminder of the decisions that others made. And Paul says to the Corinthians that those decisions are examples, warnings, to us. *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*

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So what are you using to help you make the 'right' decisions?

What if I told you that I had a sure-fire way to make certain that your decisions were always right? You'd want what I had to offer, right?

What if I told you it was as simple as asking one question? Of course you would be skeptical; after all, nothing is that simple. But what if it is that simple? What if all you needed to do was ask before making the decision; **What is the wise thing to do?**

Should I...?

What is the wise thing to do?

Should I...?

What is the wise thing to do?

If we will ask this question, do you know what the Bible says will happen? We will make good decisions, live a long life, be attractive to others, prosper, be persuasive, be prepared for the future, be sought after by those of power and influence, ultimately rise to a position of power, be kept safe from harm, and be a good counselor for others. Proverbs 1:1-5 and 8:14, 9:11, 11:30, 14:24, 16:23, 21:20, 14:35, 17:2, 28:26, 27:9

All of that and more is promised in the book of Proverbs- God's wisdom for our decision making process.

Now let me ask you if you would be willing to make a decision for the next 48 hours. Would you be willing during the next 48 hours to ask one simple question when faced with a decision, large or small? That question is simply: **What is the wise thing to do?**

Of course, I hope that you wouldn't stop after 48 hours; but would you be willing to ask **what is the wise thing to do?**

You see we need to know and understand God's wisdom from the scriptures because, **Every decision leads to a destination.** And with each decision, right-foot red, left-hand green; we need to remember to watch out because just when we think we are standing firm; we need to be careful we don't fall.

David learned too late that his first decision that spring day would lead to a cascade of bad decisions; decisions that ultimately took the life of Uriah. **Every decision leads to a destination.**

Are you wise enough to make the right decision so that you stand firm and don't fall?