

**FORK IN THE ROAD**  
**Choose Wisely**

**Choose Better Over Bitter**  
**Pastor Steve Reynolds**

B. Better Over Bitter Principle #3: Do not quit, but endure pain knowing God will use it for spiritual maturity.

<sup>3</sup> *"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;*

<sup>4</sup> *and perseverance, character; and character, hope."*

Romans 5:3-4

IV. PRIORITIZE YOUR SPIRITUAL FOOD

A. Job in his suffering treasures the spiritual food of God's Word more than his necessary food.

<sup>12</sup> *"I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."*

Job 23:12

B. Better Over Bitter Principle #4: The Bible provides the nourishment that you need to keep going when you are in pain.

<sup>4</sup> *"But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

Matthew 4:4

<sup>10</sup> *"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."*

Psalms 19:10

<sup>16</sup> *"Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts."*

Jeremiah 15:16

<sup>2</sup> *"as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,"*

I Peter 2:2

**CHOOSE BETTER OVER BITTER**

**Introduction:**

A. Every day we face critical life choices that shape our future decisions about faith, relationships, priorities, and adversity.

B. In the Fork In The Road Teaching Series we'll explore how God guides His people when life presents difficult choices.

<sup>21</sup> *"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."*

Isaiah 30:21

Through Scripture, prayer, and practical wisdom, we'll learn how to choose God's path by discerning His voice, avoiding costly detours, and walking confidently in His will. Because the choices we make today determine the roads we travel tomorrow.

April 5

Choose Life Over Death

April 12

Choose Faith Over Fear

TODAY

Choose Better Over Bitter

April 26

Choose Right Over Wrong

May 3

Choose Victory Over Defeat

**TEXT:** Job 23:1-12

Job provides an example for us to choose better over bitter.

<sup>10</sup> *"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."* Job 23:10

## HOW TO CHOOSE BETTER OVER BITTER

The book of Job tells the story of a righteous man, Job, who loses his wealth, children and health in a trial allowed by God to test his faithfulness against Satan's accusations. Despite this extreme suffering, Job refuses to curse God, holding on to his integrity, while questioning his suffering. The story ends with God restoring much of Job's prosperity.

### I. ADMIT YOUR FEELINGS

A. Job is honest about how his suffering has resulted in bitterness. He expresses deep emotion.

<sup>1</sup> *"Then Job answered and said:*

<sup>2</sup> *Even today my complaint is bitter..."* Job 23:1-2a

<sup>20</sup> *"Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself"* Job 7:20

B. Better Over Bitter Principle #1: The first step to healing is acknowledging and confessing your pain.

<sup>8</sup> *"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah"* Psalm 62:8

<sup>16</sup> *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* James 5:16

### II. PURIFY YOUR FAITH

A. Job in his suffering searches for God and cannot "perceive Him." But Job knows God is with him and that his faith in God is being refined.

<sup>8</sup> *"Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him;*

<sup>9</sup> *When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; when He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him.*

<sup>10</sup> *But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."* Job 23:8-10

<sup>21</sup> *And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.'" Job 1:21*

<sup>15</sup> *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him...."*

Job 13:15a

B. Better Over Bitter Principle #2: Pain tests your faith and refines it. You must trust the Refiner, knowing that trials are designed to purify, not punish.

<sup>6</sup> *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*

<sup>7</sup> *that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,"* I Peter 1:6-7

### III. MAINTAIN YOUR FORTITUDE

A. Despite his suffering, Job resolves to hold fast and follow God's plan.

<sup>11</sup> *"My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside."* Job 23:11

Job's wife told him to quit.

<sup>9</sup> *"Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!'"*

<sup>10</sup> *But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips."* Job 2:9-10

Job's three friends- Eliphaz, Bildad and Zohar- told Job that God was punishing him for doing something wrong (Job 4-25).

<sup>7</sup> *"And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.'" Job 42:7*