

IV. NOW YOU HAVE A LIFE OVER DEATH CHOICE

A. Choosing sin leads you to death.

¹⁵ *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;*

¹⁷ *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you^[a] shall surely die."* Genesis 2:15-17

⁶ *"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

Genesis 3:6

¹² *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—" Romans 5:12*

²³ *"For the wages of sin is death..."*

Romans 6:23a

¹⁴ *"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

¹⁵ *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14-15*

B. Choosing salvation leads you to life.

²³ *"... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23b

²⁴ *"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."*

I Peter 2:24

²⁵ *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

²⁶ *And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26*

CHOOSE LIFE OVER DEATH

FORK IN THE ROAD

Choose Wisely

Choose Life Over Death

Pastor Steve Reynolds

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.

²¹ *"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.

TODAY

April 12

April 19

April 26

May 3

Choose Life Over Death

Choose Faith Over Fear

Choose Better Over Bitter

Choose Right Over Wrong

Choose Victory Over Defeat

TEXT: Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus provides an example for us to choose life over death.

⁴² *"Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.'"*

Matthew 26:42

HOW TO CHOOSE LIFE OVER DEATH

This life over death choice in the life of Jesus took place in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is a small garden located just outside the city of Jerusalem. Jesus would often go there to spend time with His disciples.

¹ *"When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.*

² *And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples."* John 18:1-2

I. JESUS MADE A PAINFUL CHOICE OF LIFE OVER DEATH

A. Jesus suffered emotionally.

³⁷ *"And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.*

³⁸ *Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.'*"

Matthew 26:37-38

B. Jesus suffered relationally.

⁴⁰ *"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?'*

⁴³ *And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy."* Matthew 26:40, 43

C. Jesus suffered physically.

⁴⁴ *"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."* Luke 22:44

D. Jesus suffered spiritually.

²¹ *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

II Corinthians 5:21

II. JESUS MADE A PRAYERFUL CHOICE OF LIFE OVER DEATH

A. His posture was he fell on His face.

³⁹ *"He went a little farther and fell on His face..."*

Matthew 26:39a

B. His petition was to see if it was possible to provide salvation another way.

³⁹ *"...and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'"*

Matthew 26:39b

C. His priority was to do whatever needed to be done to provide salvation.

⁴² *"Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.'*

⁴⁴ *So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words."* Matthew 26:42, 44

III. JESUS MADE A POWERFUL CHOICE OF LIFE OVER DEATH

A. Jesus found strength over temptation.

⁴¹ *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Matthew 26:41

B. Jesus found strength to keep going.

³⁹ *"He went a little farther..."* Matthew 26:39

⁴³ *"Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him."* Luke 22:43

⁴⁵ *"Then He came to His disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

⁴⁶ *Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."*

Matthew 26:45-46