

FORK IN THE ROAD

Choose Wisely

Choose Right Over Wrong

Pastor Steve Reynolds

¹¹ "So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

¹² 'Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

¹³ Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.'"

Daniel 1:11-13

- B. When tempted to do wrong, replace the temptation with a positive action.

²⁸ "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

Ephesians 4:28-29

IV. BELIEVE GOD WILL REWARD YOU FOR DOING RIGHT

- A. God blessed Daniel.

¹⁵ "And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

¹⁶ Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables."

Daniel 1:15-16

²⁰ "And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:20

- B. God will bless you when you take the way of escape with temptation.

²⁸ "But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'"

Luke 11:28

CHOOSE RIGHT OVER WRONG

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.

April 5
April 12
April 19
TODAY
May 3

Choose Life Over Death
Choose Faith Over Fear
Choose Better Over Bitter
Choose Right Over Wrong
Choose Victory Over Defeat

TEXT: Daniel 1:1-21

Daniel provides an example for us to choose right over wrong.

⁸ "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore, he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Daniel 1:8

HOW TO CHOOSE RIGHT OVER WRONG

I. KNOW YOU WILL BE TEMPTED NOT TO DO RIGHT

A. Nebuchadnezzar sought to conform Daniel to an ungodly image.

¹*"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it."*
Daniel 1:1

³*"Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.*

⁵*And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.*

⁶*Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.*

⁷*To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego."*

Daniel 1:3-7

B. Every person faces temptation, but God promises a way of escape.

¹³*"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*
I Corinthians 10:13

¹⁴*"as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;*

¹⁵*but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*

¹⁶*because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"*

I Peter 1:14-16

II. DECIDE BEFOREHAND TO DO RIGHT

A. Daniel committed his heart to God before he opened his mouth.

⁸*"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore, he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he nicht not defile himself."*

Daniel 1:8

¹⁴*"(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),*

¹⁵*lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,"*
Exodus 34:14-15

B. The best time to plan for temptation is before it happens.

¹¹*"lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."*
II Corinthians 2:11

¹⁴*"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."*

Romans 13:14

III. DEVELOP A PLAN TO DO RIGHT

A. Daniel came up with a creative alternate strategy.

¹⁰*"And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, 'I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.'"*
Daniel 1:10