DECISION VERSUS INDECISION

Intro: 1 Kin. 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.” This scene is one of the most memorable and striking in all history.

1. The Place: Mt. Carmel of Samaria.
2. The characters:
   a. The Israelites
   b. Elijah, the prophet of God
   c. The 450 prophets of Baal.
3. The scene: A climax to the fifty odd years of struggle in Israel between monotheism and idolatry; Jehovah and Baal, that which is holy and decent and that which is impure and sensual. In other words:
   a. The children of Israel were going into the way of idolatry but were still undecided as to whom they should wholeheartedly serve.
   b. They were in a state of indecision but Elijah, in the words of our text, calls upon them to make a decision.
   c. Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”
   d. This call was not, and is not, peculiar to Israel for we too are called upon to decide.

I. THE DECISIONS WE ARE CALLED UPON TO MAKE.
   A. Decide: To make up one’s mind, to become settled, resolute, determined.
   B. Man was created with the power of choice, thus is called upon to make decisions.
      1. Where we will go to school.
      2. Our life’s work.
      3. Our life’s companion.
      4. These decisions, though often considered lightly, are far reaching and determine our successes or failures in life.
   C. The same is true spiritually.
      1. Becoming a Christian; Acts 2:40 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”
      2. Living faithfully the Christian life.
         a. It still is a decision between God and Baal.
         b. Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

II. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES.
   A. Man is a creature subject to mistakes and the Bible recording man as he is lists for our instructions many examples of wrong decisions.
      1. Adam and Eve (Gen. 3).
      2. Lot choosing the plains of Sodom to the loss of his wife and happiness.
         a. Gen. 13
         b. 2 Pet. 2:7-8 “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: *(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)*”
3. 1 Cor. 10:11-12 “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 11Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

B. Likewise the Bible, for our profit, records the wise decisions of others.
1. The great men of faith; Heb. 11
2. Heb. 12:1-2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 1Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

C. From these examples we learn standards for making wise decisions.
1. Do not be prejudice.
2. Do not be hasty: consider, weigh both sides.
3. When the right way is found readily accept it.

III. INDECISION.
A. But, man oftentimes tries to evade the force of making decisions and thus goes into a state of indecision.
1. The Israelites in our text.
2. Pilate; Mat. 26-27
3. Felix; Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
4. Agrippa; Acts 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

B. But, the Lord has never sanctioned a divided allegiance for indecision, in reality, is in itself a decision.
1. Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
2. Rev. 3:14-16 “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

C. Thus, how is it with you? Where do you stand?

Conclusion: 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” Heb. 4:7 “Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” 1 Kin. 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”