



REPLENISHED – Choice Matters 14th March 2021 Deborah Holman

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Why do decisions and choices we make affect eternity?
2. Which three parables in the Bible discuss wise and foolish choices?
3. Why does Jesus speak about 'wise and foolish choices' three times?

Engage:

4. Read and discuss [Luke 6:46-49](#)

“God has made us volitional.

Volition or will is the cognitive process by which an individual decides on and commits to a particular course of action. It is defined as purposive striving and is one of the primary human psychological functions.

In others words we are designed to be able to choose.”

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5. If we look at the parable of the builders, the choices are described as wise and foolish choices. When do you discover that a choice you made was wise or foolish?
➤ God doesn't want us to wait until the consequences of our decisions kick in. He would rather we think about the consequences when we make our choices.
6. Ignoring consequences do not make them go away and because we are free to choose, we also have to learn to take responsibility for consequences. So why do some things feel like a compulsive trap rather than a choice?
7. Read [Romans 7:21-23](#)
8. What did Paul recognise in the scripture above?
9. Read [Romans 12:2](#) - There is a battle going on for our minds, Paul calls it a war with our mind. The enemy wants to enslave it but God wants to set it free.
10. Paul goes on to tell us that it is possible – Read [Romans 7:24-25](#)

Framework:

11. The good news is that just because we *feel* we have no choice; doesn't mean we *actually* have no choice. So, we can't abdicate responsibility for the choices we make - that is not scriptural.
12. What causes someone - who is made in the image of God, who has the capacity and ability to choose given to them by God - lose their ability to make choices?
13. How do we restore the notion of choice?
14. Read [Proverbs 20:5](#)
 - Just as you can't see the bottom of a lake when the water is deep and murky. The goals of our behaviours may be difficult to discern, but a man of understanding draws them out.
15. Read [Jeremiah 17:9-10](#)
16. Read [Psalm 139:23](#)
 - The heart is deceitful, and we can't expect to understand the purpose of our behaviour; we need Gods help to examine us and show us.
17. Let's think about some of these behaviours and the things we say

Behaviour	We say.....	Choice
Overeating to give comfort	"I can't help it"	No sense of choice
Being shy to avoid interaction	"I've always been like this"	No sense of choice
Drinking to give us courage	"It always works but sometimes I go too far"	No sense of choice
Always having to win an argument to prove ourself	"No one ever listens to me"	No sense of choice
Avoiding relationships	"I won't get hurt"	No sense of choice

- Knowing our heart is deceitful and asking God to search us so that the goals of our behaviour are drawn out, will restore our ability to choose. We can either choose to trust God to meet that need, or continue in our behaviour to meet that need.
18. Let's go back to the parable (Luke 6:46-49) and see what God calls wise and what He calls foolish. It has to start with 3 things:
 - Coming to God – a purposeful change of direction
 - A willingness to hear - there needs to be an act of surrender
 - A willingness to do – a commitment to follow through
 19. Instructions on how to change do no good, when the ones who are instructed, have no awareness that change is up to them.

"Often we expect God or others to help us change but if we don't position ourselves to change then change won't happen."

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20. Verse 48 - Many people neglect their foundations.
 - This builder dug down deep, he put in time, effort and hard graft to ensure the foundation would stand – there was a cost to him.
 - When we come to Christ it is the start of a journey to a new life, it is so much more than raising your hand and saying a prayer.
 - When we come to Christ, we are adopted into a new family that should help us to dig deep.
 - The foundations are the things that will hold us firm when difficult times come.
21. Read [1 Corinthians 3:10](#)
22. Read [Ephesians 2:20-21](#) (God will hold all the parts together but He won't make choices for us and we will bear the consequences of our actions.)
23. Read [Proverbs 4:20-24](#)
24. How can we dig deep and have strong foundations?
 - **My son, listen to my speech; incline your ear to my words.**
25. What does it mean to listen, to incline your ear?
26. Why do we need to listen so intently?
 - **Do not lose sight of them; keep them in your mind.**
27. Read and discuss [Luke 11:34](#)
 - **They are life to those who find them, healing for his whole body.**
28. Why does seeing and hearing bring healing and restore choices?
 - **More than all that you guard, guard your heart, for it is the source of life.**
29. What do the words "guard again" mean?
30. Read [Psalm 91:1-2](#)

Conclusion:

Maybe today you feel that you have lost your ability to choose in some areas of your life. But know there is a way to restore this ability to choose!

The key to wise choices - much like the wise builder - is learning to love the secret place. Learning to shut out the world in your seeing and hearing, and learning to know the truth so that you can follow it. Being willing to examine your behaviours where you feel powerless, and learning to trust God to meet your needs.

Surround yourself with others who have firm foundations and can help you to know the truth.