



The Legacy Question

WEEK FOUR

Each choice I make becomes a part of my story.

SERIES BIG IDEA:

When I follow God's will, I will have no regrets.

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:17 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Changing how we think will impact the decisions we make and the actions we take.

The personal decisions we make and the private actions we take impact the people around us and those who come after us.

GENESIS 37:3-9

And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

Genesis 39:10 (NIV)

²⁰ Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

Genesis 39:20-22 (NIV)

Joseph didn't know the outcome of his circumstances, yet Joseph chose to honor God in all that he did.

The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Genesis 39:23 (NIV)

One choice at a time, Joseph continued to write the story that we read today.

¹⁴ But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵ I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

Genesis 40:14-15 (NIV)

The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Genesis 40:23 (NIV)

So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

Genesis 41:38 (NIV)

Joseph chose to honor God in every choice, and God honored Joseph.

Joseph had the power to decide the fate of those who wronged him; however, he decided to write a different story.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

Genesis 45:3-5 (NIV)



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WEEK FOUR

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

It is God's will that I honor Him with the story that I live.

- **I will honor God in every decision that creates my story.**
- **I cannot choose what happens to me. I can only decide how I will respond in my effort and my attitude.**
- **I will choose to honor God in what I think, say, and do.**

What story do I want to tell?



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

All of our lives will tell a story. Our stories will have ups and downs. Our stories will have moments of triumph and moments of heartbreak. Our stories, in many ways, will be defined by the choices we make.

There will be outside influences that impact our stories. However, it's not those things that will be remembered but how we responded to them.

We have a decision to make and it is the same decision we will have to make over and over again.

Will we honor God with our decisions or will we choose our own way? Will we make decisions with honoring God being our primary filter or will our own fallen nature guide our path?

This decision will write the story that others will remember and tell. This decision will help define if our life points people to Jesus and has a lasting impact or if others will maybe say nice things about us but not be positively impacted when all is said and done.

Jesus' way will lead to a life without regret. Our way will lead to a life of little impact, regrets, and a legacy we don't want.

TALK IT OVER:

Who do you know that has led a life that tells a story of impact and points people to Jesus? What stands out about their story?

Do you believe that Jesus can use your story to bring honor to God? Do you believe that your decisions play a role in the impact of your story? What decisions do you need to put through the filter of Jesus?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1) Mark 7:14-23

Day 2) Micah 6:6-8

Day 3) Psalm 51:10-17

Day 4) Isaiah 29:13-16

Day 5) Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 14:25-27

Day 6) John 16:5-11