Learn To Live With Second Choices

Mark Roberts · Acts 16:6–8

INTRODUCTION

- What we want to focus on this evening is the idea of living with second choices.
- Life is full of second choices for all of us. What do you do when you don't get what you want?
- Since second choices are our reality for all of us, let's learn what the Bible tells us to do.

1 Act on What I Can Control

Genesis 39:1–2; Philippians 3:12–14; Romans 12:18

- That begins with just a realization that I need to act on what I can control.
- Joseph worked hard, didn't complain, did the best he could where he was. As a result, God did bless that spirit and bless that attitude.
- I need to work on what I can control. I need to accept what is outside my ability to control.
- One thing I do, I forget what lies behind. I strain forward to what lies ahead, and I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- You can't do anything about the future. The future is in the hands of the Lord.

2 Don't Allow My First Choice to Become an Idol

Genesis 16:1–4; Colossians 3:5; Acts 15:36–39

- I need to be careful that I don't allow my first choice to become an idol that I obsess about.
- She misinterprets the activity of God and then decides we'll do something wrong to get what we want.
- Put to death, therefore what is earthly in you, sexual immorality and impurity and passion and evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- Covetousness is wanting something so bad, you'll do anything to get it.
- John Mark decided, I'm going to let God use my second choice.

3 Use Where We Are to Glorify the Lord

Philippians 1:19–24

- With full courage, now as always, Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
- Paul is in the middle of a massive second choice. He's in prison.
- Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The essence of everyday Christianity is that every day we get up and think about Jesus. What will honor him?
- Sometimes God knows what's best and he knows what we need, and he carefully directs in his good providence so that we don't get our first choice.

- What is remarkable and encouraging is how God can use second choice people.

4 Lean Upon the Lord in Our Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

- Second choices shatter that. Make us quit pretending that we are so strong and powerful and able on our own.
- My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
- For the sake of Christ, then I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- When we get our second choice, we learn better. We learn to do the will of the Lord. We learn to depend upon Him for strength.
- Search your life. And you'll find that in your second choices, those are the times that you are brought the closest to the Lord.

THE CHALLENGE

What second choice are you stuck with? When that happens, will you use that second choice to bring honor and glory to the Lord?

MY NOTES