



## IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE FREEDOM

Pastor Jeff Hill

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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**John 5:1-9**

### IT'S YOUR CHOICE! DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL?

<sup>5</sup> Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” <sup>7</sup> “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup> At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

**Definition of CHOOSE:** pick out or select (someone or something) as being the best or most appropriate of two or more alternatives. decide on a course of action, typically after rejecting alternatives.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

### MAKE THE CHOICE TO HAVE GOD (RECOVERY) BE YOUR LIFE

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, you shall **choose** life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, <sup>20</sup> by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding closely to Him; for He is your life [your good life, your abundant life, your fulfillment] and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord promised (swore) to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

**Romans 14:7**

### YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION FOR GOD TO BE THE BOSS

<sup>7</sup> We are not our own bosses to live or die as we ourselves might **choose**.

**John 15:16**

### YOUR PROMISES WILL COME THROUGH THE COMMUNITY

<sup>16</sup> You have not **chosen** Me, but I have **chosen** you and I have appointed *and* placed *and* purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit *and* keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain *and* be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.

## **THE CHOICE OF LIFE IGNITES OTHER CHOICES TO BE MADE**

**Deuteronomy 1:13**

### YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE A LEADER

<sup>13</sup> **Choose** for yourselves wise, understanding, experienced, *and* respected men from your tribes, and I will appoint them as heads (leaders) over you.’

**Deuteronomy 12:11**

### YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE A COMMUNITY

<sup>11</sup> Then to the place the Lord your God will **choose** as a dwelling for his Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord.

**Deuteronomy 17:10**

### YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE TO BE INSTRUCTED

<sup>10</sup> You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the Lord will **choose**. Be careful to do everything they instruct you to do.

**Proverbs 8:10-11**

**YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE TO STUDY THE RECOVERY TOOLS**

<sup>10</sup> **Choose** my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, <sup>11</sup> for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

**Proverbs 12:26**

**YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE PEOPLE TO GLEAN TO**

<sup>26</sup> The righteous **choose** their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**Proverbs 18:21**

**YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE NOT TO BE NEGATIVE**

<sup>21</sup> Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you **choose**.

**THE BENEFITS OF CHOOSING GOD**

**Psalms 25:12**

**YOU WILL RECEIVE DIRECTION ON WHAT WAY TO CHOOSE**

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man who fears the Lord [with awe-inspired reverence and worships Him with submissive wonder]? He will teach him [through His word] in the way he should **choose**.

**Deuteronomy 12:18**

**YOU WILL FIND JOY IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO**

<sup>18</sup> Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the Lord your God at the place the Lord your God will **choose**—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites from your towns—and you are to rejoice before the Lord your God in everything you put your hand to.

**Psalms 65:4**

**YOU WILL COME IN CONTACT WITH HIGHLY FAVORED PEOPLE**

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those you **choose** and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

**FACTS ABOUT THE CHOICE**

**Matthew 7:13**

**GOD (RECOVERY) WILL BE THE HARDEST THING YOU'VE DONE**

<sup>13</sup> "Heaven can be entered only through the narrow gate! The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide enough for all the multitudes who **choose** its easy way.

**1 Corinthians 8:9**

**GOD (RECOVERY) ALLOWS YOU TO FIGHT TEMPTATION**

<sup>9</sup> Only be careful that this liberty of yours [this power to **choose**] does not somehow become a stumbling block [that is, a temptation to sin] to the weak [in conscience].

**Proverbs 1:28-29**

**GOD (RECOVERY) WON'T BE FOUND UNLESS YOU SURRENDER**

<sup>28</sup> "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, <sup>29</sup> since they hated knowledge and did not **choose** to fear the Lord.

**IN CLOSING**

**John 7:17**

**IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT IF WHAT IS BEING TAUGHT IS TRUE**

<sup>17</sup> Anyone who **chooses** to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

**Definition of LIMBO:** an uncertain period of awaiting a decision or resolution; an intermediate state or condition.



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## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**SERENITY WORSHIP SERVICES** Sundays at 10:00am and 6:00pm in Crystal, and 12:30pm in North Minneapolis.

**SERENITY SANDWICHES** Mondays at 4:30pm in Fellowship Hall

**MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY** Mondays at 7:00pm in the Multipurpose Room

**SEEKING SERENITY AA Big Book Study** Mondays at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall

**SERENITY PRAYER** Sundays at 9:00am and 5:00pm, Tuesdays at 6:00pm in the War Room

**TUESDAY NIGHT LIFE RECOVERY** Tuesdays at 6:30pm

**SERENITY STUDY Bible Study** Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

**SERENITY YOUTH** Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Multipurpose Room

**SERENITY KIDS** Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Nursery and Serenity Kids Rooms

**CLEANING MINISTRY** Saturday Mornings at 8:00am

**SERENITY SHELF & STREET OUTREACH** Friday and Saturday:

Fridays, volunteer between 9am & 3pm in the parking lot.

Saturdays, volunteer between 9am & 12pm in the parking lot,

or join our street outreach team from 10am-1pm

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

**INSPIRED YOUTHS Bible Study** Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> & April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the North Minneapolis Campus

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY** Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

## GET INVOLVED

### WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Visit the connection center in fellowship hall or scan this QR code to let us know you're interested!

