

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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INTRODUCTION

TEXT: *"But the multitude of the city was divided; and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles."* (Acts 14:4).

A. From time to time we have all had to choose a side.

1. Recently - Democrat or Republican.
2. Remember the school yard - pitch up a bat, catch it and then hand over hand to see who gets first choice.
3. Many choices in life are more difficult and far more important.

B. IN THE TEXT the multitude of the city was divided. v. 4.

1. A part held with the Jews.
2. And part with the apostles.
3. You can almost see a person being stopped and asked, "Which side are you on?"
4. We can imagine the effort put forth - to win a person to "our side".

C. How many times has man been faced with this decision?

1. Who is on the Lord's side?
 2. We must be on one side or the other. In this (service to God) we cannot Choose....not to Choose. WE MUST CHOOSE
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BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

A. MT. CARMEL:

1. *"How long go ye limping between the two sides? If Jehovah be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him."* 1 Kings 18:21
2. We know the story. The contest and the results.
3. But what choice did the people make? (Since Elijah had to flee, we assume most of them choose Baal.).

B. JOSHUA:

1. *"Choose you this day whom ye will serve: "... but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah."* (Joshua 24:14,15).
2. The people had entered and settled the Promised Land.
3. Now how were they going to live.....what would be their choice.
4. Later we read: *"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 17:6).
5. This was the choice they ultimately made and the Book of Judges is a testimony of what it cost them!

C. JESUS:

1. *"Come unto me..."* Matt. 11:28
2. *"And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* (Luke 9:23).
3. Count the cost! Two parables....Luke 14:25-35.

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4. *"No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* Matt. 6:24.
 5. **Now which side are you on?**
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Why We Choose - World

A. FEAR:

1. Of being cast out of the synagogue. John 9:22; 11:42.
2. Of losing the chief seats. Matt. 23:6.
3. Of losing family. Luke 12:49-53.
4. Of losing life....

B. PERSONAL: Gain or Loss.

1. Rich Young Ruler...went away sorrowful...Why? *"Had much possessions."* Mark 10:22.
2. *"Howbeit what things were gain for me, these have I counted loss for Christ."* Phil. 3:7.

C. PRIDE:

1. Saul.... the king.
2. Agrippa...was this his problem.

D. TEACHINGS:

1. *"Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?Upon this many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."* (John 6:60, 66).
 2. Prejudice.
 3. Difficult or different
 4. The Jews - looking for an earthly kingdom.
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Why We Choose - Jesus

A. LOVE:

1. Because God loved us...John 3:16.
2. What is the greatest commandment.....Love God with all.
3. Love is a natural response to the love that God has given unto us.

B. TEACHINGS:

1. *".....we persuade men..."* II Corinthians 5:11.
2. How?? Next page.

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- a. Words. *"Send to Joppa, and fetch Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall speak unto thee words, whereby thou shalt be saved, thou and all thy house."* (Acts 11:13,14).
 - b. Gospel....God's power to save (Romans 1:16).
 - c. *"Now I make known unto you, brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain."* (I Cor. 15:1-3).
- C. DESIRE FOR BETTER:
1. Abraham was....*looking for a city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God."* (Heb. 11:10).
 2. New Jerusalem.... (Revelations chapter 21 and 22).
 3. Winner...more than Conqueror....

CONCLUSION

- A. *"Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven."* (Matt. 10: 32,33).
1. We will be confessed.....or denied.
 2. All depends on "which side we are on"!
- B. RESULTS OF CHOICE:
1. In life
 2. In death.
- C. *"Cast away from you all your transgressions, wherein ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord Jehovah: wherefore turn yourselves and live."* (Ezek. 18;31-32).
1. Our choice.....in life.....in death.
 2. Why will you die???
 3. Choose who you will serve..... "Which side are you going to be on?"
 4. Take up your cross....and follow Jesus.

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