

Lead With Faith

The Valley of Decision

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **October 30, 2022**



God's people are walking in a valley of decision, at a pivot or tipping point, and I believe our choices in the months ahead will have a great deal to do with what our future looks like. The hearts of God's people will determine our future more than any earthly thing, whether political or financial. I am not denying those things are powerful, but they pale in comparison to the power of Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth. His power is greater than anything we depend on in the world, and the hearts of God's people determine God's involvement in the earth. We are the people of God on assignment in this world for a very brief season, entrusted with spiritual authority as ambassadors for the King—and decisions are being made that will determine outcomes that our children and our grandchildren will know. Our choices and decisions will make a difference ...

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Watch, Listen, Think, Act

I. NOT A NEW PROBLEM

Perversion

Isaiah 5:20–23 ²⁰ *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.* ²¹ *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.* ²² *Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks,* ²³ *who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.*

Revelation 22:11 *“Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”*

Truth & Honesty Rejected

Psalms 52:3 *You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth.*

Isaiah 59:14–15 ¹⁴ *So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.* ¹⁵ *Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.*

Deception

Matthew 24:4–5 ⁴ *Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.* ⁵ *For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”*

Matthew 24:11 *... and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.*

1. **Where have you seen objective truth diminished in the public square? What effect has this had on society as a whole?**

II. LEAD WITH FAITH

Zechariah 4:6 *So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.”*

- A. Use your influence on behalf of the Kingdom of God.
- B. Person of Faith, is a Faithful Person
- C. Directional Leadership: Selecting a Path Towards God, Leading with Your Actions

Philippians 4:9 *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Acts 5:27–33 ²⁷ *Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.* ²⁸ *“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”* ²⁹ *Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!* ³⁰ *The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.* ³¹

*God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.
32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” 33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.*

- 2. If those around you were to emulate your behaviors, in what direction would they be led?**
- 3. Where have you stayed silent in order to maintain peace among your peers?**

III. NOT PASSIVE OBSERVERS

- A. Seek the Lord

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Zephaniah 2:3 **Seek the Lord**, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.

- B. Return to the Lord
- C. Wait for the Lord

IV. ESCAPING THE COCOON OF SELF

- A. Practice Contentment

1 Timothy 6:6–8 ⁶ *But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

Isaiah 57:20–21 ²⁰ *But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ²¹ “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”*

- B. Live Generously

1. Serve with Abandon & Humility
2. Give Sacrificially
3. Forgive Extravagantly

Philemon 1:9–11, 17–18 ⁹ *I then, as Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. . . . ¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.*

- 4. In what areas of your life do you struggle the most with discontent?**
- 5. Where have you exalted self-gratification over the pursuit of holiness?**

PROCLAMATION

We have cast our lot with the Prince of Peace,
We have yielded our will to the Lord of Lords,
We are servants of the King,
We reflect the beauty of the Lily of the Valley,
We stand in the strength of the Lion of Judah,
We live in health through the Great Physician,
Our needs are met because He is Our Abundance.
We know our path because we follow
the Great Shepherd,
We are participants in the Kingdom of God
because we found THE Door,
We are righteous because of His Sacrifice,
We have taken hold of true life because He is risen.
His name is Jesus of Nazareth, He is Christ,
our Lord & our King.

WE WILL NOT STOP.

We believe The Church is His Body.
Our presence on planet earth is
ordained by Almighty God.
We are empowered by Spirit
of the Living Christ.
The angels are ministering Spirits
sent forth on our behalf.
Our reward is sure.
Our inheritance is unfading.
Our treasure is secure---it will not diminish.
Our role is pivotal.
Our faithfulness is required.
Together we stand, united in
heart and purpose to accomplish
the purposes of God in our generation.
WE WILL NOT STOP.