

THE LADY, OR THE TIGER

August 21, 2016

I'm a father of four daughters and we talk about our choices all the time.

GENESIS 2:9, 15-17

⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[a] of it you shall surely die."

The first thing God gave humankind was a choice.

We understand the character of someone by the choices they make.

TODAY

Choice is something we're crippled by in our culture.

We make up to 35,000 choices a day.

Conservative estimates say we make 500 decisions a day and 225.6 of those are about food.

FOUR STEPS TO MAKING A BIG DECISION

1) Always begin with prayer.

JAMES 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

2) Get wise council.

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

3) Know your goal or the fruit you hope for.

JOHN 15: 15-17 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

THE LADY & THE TIGER

- Story by Frank R. Stockton

The LADY is the right decision that will cost us something.

Matthew 5:2-10 NIV

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.⁶

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The TIGER is the wrong decision that makes us feel better.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

4) You can always go back to the drawing board.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!