

## **Sermon Notes | 03152026 | Decision | The Well Community Church – Indian Service**

Greetings in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

**Main Text: 2 Samuel 11–18**

**Key Verse – Joshua 24:15**

### **Introduction**

Decisions are one of the most powerful forces in human life. Every person makes decisions every single day. Some decisions appear small, while others are very significant. Yet every decision has consequences, and those consequences shape the direction of our lives.

A person may think that a decision is small and insignificant, but over time that decision may grow into something that changes the course of life. Sometimes a decision only affects the person who makes it. Sometimes a decision affects a family. And sometimes a decision affects an entire nation.

Throughout the Bible we see how decisions changed the destiny of individuals, families, and even nations. A moment of choice can become a turning point in history. A wise decision can bring blessing, peace, and stability, but a foolish decision can bring division, suffering, and destruction.

That is why the Bible constantly calls people to make wise decisions. God never forces people to follow Him. Instead, He invites them to choose.

### **Deuteronomy 30:19 says:**

“I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

God places choices before us. The responsibility of choosing rests upon us.

During this quarter we have been studying the qualities of a soldier of Christ. A soldier of Christ is not simply someone who believes in God; a soldier of Christ is someone who lives with commitment, discipline, and obedience to the Lord. We have already learned about the fear of the Lord, faith, fellowship, following Christ, discipline, submission, strength, listening, and love. Each of these qualities shapes the character of a believer who desires to stand firm in God’s kingdom.

Today we come to another important quality of a soldier of Christ, and that quality is **decision**. Every soldier must learn to make decisions. In a battlefield a soldier cannot hesitate. A soldier must know whom he serves, what he believes, and how he will respond when challenges appear.

In the same way, every believer must learn to make godly decisions. Decisions shape the direction of our lives. Every day we make choices about our priorities, our actions, and our

responses to temptation. Some decisions seem small, but over time they create consequences that shape the future.

The Bible teaches that decisions are not merely practical matters; they are spiritual matters. God constantly places choices before His people. In Deuteronomy 30:19 God says,

“I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life.”

This means that our choices matter deeply to God. They reveal where our loyalty lies and what truly governs our hearts.

Today we will look closely at the life of King David, particularly in **2 Samuel chapters 11 through 18**. David was a man chosen by God, a warrior who had defeated enemies and led Israel in victory. Yet in this portion of Scripture we see how one decision created a ripple effect that moved from his personal life to his family and eventually to the entire nation.

Through this story we will learn why a soldier of Christ must be careful in making decisions and how the decisions we make can affect many people beyond ourselves.

## **1. A PERSONAL DECISION CAN BEGIN A CHAIN OF CONSEQUENCES**

*(2 Samuel 11:1–4)*

The story begins in **2 Samuel chapter 11**. The chapter opens with a small detail that reveals the beginning of the problem.

2 Samuel 11:1 says,

“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men... But David remained in Jerusalem.”

David was a warrior king. Normally he would have been with his army in battle, but on this occasion he stayed behind. This decision created the circumstances for what followed. Later in the chapter we read in verse 2,

“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”

At that moment David faced a choice. He could have turned away and guarded his heart, but instead he allowed his curiosity to continue.

Verse 3 says,

“David sent someone to find out about her.”

And verse 4 says,

“Then David sent messengers to get her.”

David's decision began privately. No army was involved. No nation was involved. It appeared to be a personal matter. Yet the Bible repeatedly teaches that personal decisions often become the starting point of greater consequences.

James 1:14–15 explains this progression:

"Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

David's story shows exactly how this process unfolds. What began as a moment of temptation soon became a deeper sin. When Bathsheba became pregnant, David attempted to hide his actions.

In order to cover up the situation, David arranged the death of Bathsheba's husband Uriah. In **2 Samuel 11:15** David sent a message to the army commander saying, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

This moment shows how far a person can fall when one decision leads to another. The soldier who once trusted God in battle had now allowed sin to guide his actions.

This teaches us an important lesson. A soldier of Christ must guard the heart carefully because decisions made in private moments often determine the direction of public life.

## **2. A FAMILY CAN SUFFER FROM ONE PERSON'S DECISION**

*(2 Samuel 12–13)*

Although David attempted to hide his sin, nothing is hidden from God. In **2 Samuel chapter 12**, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David.

Nathan told David a story about a rich man who stole a poor man's only lamb. When David heard the story he became angry and declared that the man deserved punishment. Nathan then revealed the truth by saying,

"You are the man."

David realized his sin and confessed before God. Yet Nathan also delivered a message about the consequences that would follow.

2 Samuel 12:10 says,

"Now therefore the sword will never depart from your house."

This meant that David's family would experience conflict and sorrow because of the path he had chosen.

In **2 Samuel chapter 13**, the consequences begin to unfold. David's son Amnon committed a terrible act against his sister Tamar. This tragedy deeply wounded the family.

Tamar's brother Absalom became filled with anger and eventually took revenge by killing Amnon. The family that once lived under the leadership of a powerful king now experienced division, grief, and violence.

This part of the story reminds us that the decisions of one person can influence the spiritual atmosphere of an entire household. Parents, leaders, and spiritual guides carry responsibility for the environment they create within their families.

A soldier of Christ must understand that personal choices rarely remain isolated. They affect the people who live closest to us.

### **3. FAMILY CONFLICT CAN GROW INTO A NATIONAL CRISIS**

*(2 Samuel 15–18)*

The ripple effect of David's decision did not stop within the family. Over time the conflict spread to the entire nation.

In **2 Samuel chapter 15**, Absalom began to position himself as a rival leader. He greeted people at the city gate, listened to their complaints, and gradually gained their loyalty.

2 Samuel 15:6 says,

"So Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel."

Eventually Absalom declared himself king and led a rebellion against his father. David was forced to flee Jerusalem.

The nation that once celebrated David's victories was now divided by civil war. Soldiers fought against soldiers. Families were divided. The kingdom experienced instability and suffering.

The rebellion finally ended in **2 Samuel chapter 18**, when Absalom was killed in battle. When David heard the news, his heart was broken.

2 Samuel 18:33 records David's cry:

"O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you."

This moment reveals the pain that can come from decisions whose consequences spread beyond what we ever imagined.

What began as a private moment on a rooftop had eventually affected an entire nation.

### **4. A SOLDIER OF CHRIST MUST LEARN HOW TO MAKE GODLY DECISIONS**

David's story is not recorded merely to show failure; it is recorded to teach wisdom. The Bible invites believers to learn from these events so that we may walk differently.

A soldier of Christ must learn how to make decisions in a way that honors God.

First, decisions must be guided by God's Word. Psalm 119:105 says,

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Scripture provides wisdom that helps believers see clearly when they face choices.

Second, decisions must be made through prayer. James 1:5 teaches,

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all."

Prayer allows us to slow down and seek God's direction rather than reacting to pressure or temptation.

Third, decisions should include wise counsel. Proverbs 11:14 says,

"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

God often speaks through the wisdom of mature believers who can help guide our thinking.

Finally, a soldier of Christ must choose obedience above personal desire. The greatest example of this is Jesus Himself.

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed,

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)

Jesus chose obedience even though it led to suffering. His decision brought salvation to the world.

While David's decision brought conflict and pain, Jesus' decision brought redemption and life.

## **Conclusion**

The story of David reminds us that decisions carry tremendous power. A choice that appears small in the moment can eventually influence many lives.

A personal decision can affect a family. A family conflict can influence a community. Leadership failure can impact a nation.

For this reason, a soldier of Christ must learn to make decisions carefully, prayerfully, and faithfully.

God invites each of us today to consider the choices we are making. Are our decisions guided by our desires, or are they guided by the will of God?

Joshua's words still challenge every generation:

"Choose this day whom you will serve."

May we choose to follow Christ faithfully, live as soldiers of God's kingdom, and make decisions that bring honor to the Lord and blessing to the people around us.