

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Double-minded Squashed Squirrels

Bill Brinkworth

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

James 1:8

Squirrels have a high “squashed” rate. Perhaps they are excited by the load of nuts they are carrying or anxiety about getting more, but their indecisions when crossing a road often get them killed by cars whizzing down the road the little rodents attempt to cross.

Actually, it is not the car’s fault in most cases. It is usually the squirrel’s. They quickly dart across the road, but when they see a vehicle approaching, their decision process gets them killed.

Often, they dart to the middle of the road, then they change their mind and dart back to where they came from. “Wait, I’ll go to the other side of the road;” they again change their mind and then “squash”! Their ever-changing mind gets them run over, because they got in the way of a car that did not deviate from its course.

So many people are often of the same double-minded mindset. They decide on one goal in their lives; then “No wait, I change my mind.” They go in another direction in their lives. “Whoops,” before that direction is reached they again change their mind, just as do the direction-changing squirrels. They never meet their goals, because they are always changing. Too often they also get “squashed,” and do not accomplish much in their lives.

Christians often are also indecisive. They decide to obey the Lord. They go to church, start reading their Bibles, and have a prayer life. The Lord begins to change their lives. They are happier, and then some gleaming, glittering temptation makes them change their course, and “squash,” they too end up never accomplishing anything for themselves or for the Lord.

“ ... choose you this day whom ye will serve” Joshua 24:15

Are your plans often like the “squirrel-crossing-the-road,” confusing and unsure? Many times, we do not have a clue as to what we should do in certain circumstances, or even with our life. Be sure you do what the Lord wants you to do.

God has plans for you from your beginning. He knows what you are best suited to do. Pray about what He would have you do. Read the Bible and let the Lord direct your future path by pointing out Scriptures to help you get on His track. Seek counsel from Christians that you discern are more spiritual than you. (Do not seek the non-Christian’s

opinions, as why would they know the direction God would want you to go? They do not even know Him).

Pray about it some more. WAIT patiently until you are absolutely sure of God's direction for you, and then head there, without deviating one bit. Yes, there may be some roadblocks or detours, but if that's the direction you are convinced the Lord wants you to go in, He will make provision for those temptations and impasses. They may even be part of His plan to strengthen you and point you in His direction.

Cross that road! Do not look back, turn back, or change your mind. If you do, you may be one more squashed "squirrel" on life's road.

“A double minded man: one who wavers having no fixed mind. He is one thing today, another tomorrow. A man having such a mind has ways just as changeable. He is continually unsettled.”

— Brethren New Testament Commentary

The Apprentice

Spencer

In the early eighteen hundreds, a boy was an apprentice in one of the trades. He was an ordinary boy, with one exception — he was a Christian. However, his early training was soon forgotten.

He shared his sleeping quarters with an ungodly apprentice. On going to bed, he was ashamed of being seen to pray before he retired for the night. Instead of being laughed at, he refused to bend his knee beside his bed when retiring for the night. His regard for what he had learned at a very young age became uninfluential. Soon his behavior was very much like the boy he shared the room with, who never was trained any differently.

Another apprentice came to the master. He was to share the room with the other two boys. The new apprentice was accustomed to pray, and knelt by his bed every night. He ignored any ridicule and earnestly prayed on. His consistency in nightly talking to his Father, stirred remembrance in the other apprentice's heart.

As the new boy persevered and prayed, the other lad's conscience became severely condemned. Being ashamed to pray in the presence of his fellow-apprentice was the first step in his downward course. The unhappy and fallen youth was once more brought to reflection about righteous living; and with a firmer purpose than ever, he again purposed himself and continued doing the right spiritual things — no matter what others thought.

His continuance in doing the right thing continued throughout his life. As years past, the man became a famous pastor in Birmingham. How much harm we get from one act of indecision or one wrong decision. How much good may be done by one proper act? Who can tell

what may be the result from turning ungodly practices to godly lifestyles.

“You are free to make whatever choice you want, but you are not free from the consequences of the choice.” — *Author Unknown*

Our Decisions

Author Unknown

Our spiritual choices and future are shown by our decisions when we:

- Seek God.
- Chose to obey His commandments.
- Love the things He loves and avoid the things He hates.
- Follow God fully.
- Serve God.
- Love Him fully.

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” *Joshua 24:15*

A Choice That Affected Generations

Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor

It was the words of Joshua 24:15 that the Holy Spirit brought to the mind of young James Taylor on the morning of his wedding day, February 1, 1776.

Though he had lived a happy, worldly life, and was a leader in all that was opposed by the neighborhood Methodist revival, God dealt with him as he worked alone that momentous day. He yielded, was born again, and decided, "Yes, we will serve the Lord." His bride was dismayed, but he soon won her to Christ, and a Christian home was established.

This was the great grandfather of James Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission. Holy influences from James Taylor's right choice flowed to the generations to come, and resulted in untold good and lives saved. What if the decision had been different?

"Make good choices today, so you don't have regrets tomorrow!" — *Author Unknown*

Decide to Renew Your Passion

Deb McCoy

Has your passion to serve the Lord begun to fade?
Does sharing the Gospel with others your steps you try to
evade?

Have you become settled in living a lukewarm life?
Are you drifting aimlessly through battles as they pierce
through like a knife?

Choose this day to rekindle the flame of passion first lit at
salvation,

The gift of the Holy Spirit within will point you away from
any temptation.

Take that first step and begin to pray,
Don't allow Satan your thoughts to sway.

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Repent of any sins that the Lord brings to mind,
Arise from the altar and then leave them all behind.

Living a God-pleasing life is a choice,
Yielding to His direction will lead to peace, and your heart
again will rejoice.