

Discover your Why.

John 21

• Introduction.

- Recently, I have been challenged with the importance of decision making.
- Decision's create shift in one's life. But in order to create shift/ a real change. A individual needs to discover their why they want to change.
- Decision's are choice's. God has given you and I this power, this gift to choose.
- The gift was given all the back in the garden of Eden. Satan said to Eve "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"
 - Eve's commitment to God was challenged. She was at a point of choice; a shift/ a change in her life. **Note: not all decision's you make are for your good.**
 - **(But also note:** God takes those bad decision's and makes good out of them.
 - (Eve needed to make a decision)
 - Her decision was; Stay committed to God or Do what was right in her own eyes.
 - Eve taking and eating the fruit from the tree of good and evil was not the decision. **It was the action from her decision to break her commitment to God. Her why was that she could be like God.**

- **Introduction (continued)**

- If action doesn't follow, then you haven't made a decision. **A decision means you are committed to your WHY. When you have a WHY you are then able to decided and commit. After you commit you are able to follow through with action.**

- **Without a WHY, a decision produces inconsistent action.(Because you don't have a Why that you are committed to.)**
 - I have worked out in the gym most of my adult life. I did so because I wanted to be healthy. I was committed to working out but I was not committed to health.

 - For most of my adult life, I never made the decision to be healthy. My WHY was missing. Why I wanted to be healthy was not yet known. This caused me to go I straight to action. But because my WHY was not established. A decision / a commitment was never made.

 - Guess what happened? **I WAS INCONSISTENT and eventually stopped my action and resumed my unhealthy lifestyle.**

- **Unfortunately,** for many of us: We think we are committed, we think we have made a decision. We think we have a WHY. We think this because we start the action of what we believe. But yet, so many times we fall away and stop. We then follow up the stop by saying a few things: "Its to hard, I'm not good enough, **or my personal favorite that I have used** " It might be good for you but that's not for me."

- **The result of this thinking is:** We stay in the same spot of life. **Or I call it being in a rut.** Have you ever said "Man, I feel like I'm in a rut and I can't get out." Unfortunately, I have said it way to much.

- **Introduction (continued)**

- **In order for commitment to stay, a decision has to be made. A WHY has to be discovered.** That decision isn't a one time event. **IT'S DAILY.**

- To be committed to anything you have to make a choice (A decision) daily to follow through on your WHY. **You have to know what you want and WHY you want it.**

- **Some examples that require A WHY.**

- **Marriage** is an area I daily have to make a choice: I make the decision daily to be committed to my wife. To cherish her, to serve her. WHY? Because God gave her to me and I love her.

- **Parenting:** Unfortunately, this choice for many parents is quickly fading away. Daily, I have to make the choice (a decision) to guide my children.

- **Other area's:** Health, finances, business, your job.

- **What about your relationship with Jesus? This is the most important daily decision a person has.**

- Discovering your WHY will help you make a decision (commitment) to those you cherish and love and to the responsibilities in life.

- **John 21.**

- **If you would turn to John 21.** What we have been looking at thus far; was lived out by one of the disciples.

- To bring you up to speed of what is going on to this point. Jesus was crucified and Jesus was raised from the dead.

- **John 21.**

- Jesus appeared to His disciples at two different times. The first time, Jesus breath upon them the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave the disciples the authority to forgive sins and to retain sins.
- Unfortunately Thomas wasn't there. When he was told that Jesus was alive he said and I quote "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." **Oh how many of us require certain things of Jesus before we believe.**
 - Jesus met Thomas in his unbelief (literally) He gave Thomas his desire and allowed him to touch his required areas so that he would believe.
- After this point John (the writer) the beloved disciple writes a couple of my favorite verses: **John 20:30-31 (Read)**
- **So now that we are up to speed, let's read verses 1-14.**
 - After 3 and half years of walking with Jesus, After the crucifixion, After the resurrection, After Seeing Jesus and After receiving the Holy Spirit.
 - We see Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the son's of Zebedee (James and John) and there was two other disciples gathered together at the Sea of Tiberias also known as the Sea of Galilee.
- Peter, tells the guys **"I am going fishing."** and the rest of the crew agree's with this decision.
 - Peter goes back to what he knows, Peter goes back to who he believes he is. **(A fisherman)**

- **John 21.**

- Peter and company fished and they fished all night. Not catching a single fish. (That's terrible. I know if I don't catch fish within an hour or so I'm done.)
 - But these guys were professionals. They stayed out fishing all night into the morning. In the Morning Jesus comes to the shore, speaks out to them and asks "Children, do you have any food"
 - **(The Greek word for children is Pie-dee-on)** And it is used to describe a young child or immature child.)
- These guys were acting as children, they went back to their old lives instead of walking forward in their new lives. **(How many parents can recall your children receiving instruction and them going back to previous actions?)**
 - Yet Jesus meets them where they are at in their faith. The guys answer Jesus's question (Not knowing it was Jesus who asked) **"No"** To me the short direct answer may have been a frustrating No.
 - Jesus instructs the guys to try the other side. They cast onto the other side (Seems like Dasha voo) I can only imagine the guys saying **"Man, this was just like the time Peter when Jesus told you to recast your net."**
 - Remember the story: **Luke 5:4-5 NKJV] 4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."**
- **Back to John**, the disciples cast the net onto the other side. Guess what? They had success. And at that moment John recognized that it was Jesus.

- **John 21.**

- Peter hearing this, jumps into the water to get to Jesus.
- The rest of the crew only being a 100 yards out comes to the shore by boat.
- They come to Jesus, who had fish already, and bread waiting for them.
 - Jesus asks the guys to bring Him some fish. So Peter goes and drags a net full of 153 large fish. What task, most likely Peter is still soaking wet.
 - Jesus serves these guys. And this event was know as the 3rd time they had see Jesus after He was raised from the dead.
- I want to specifically look at Peter right now. Peter was the lead on this whole going back to fishing adventure. Peter reverted back to his old life.
 - Even though Jesus told Peter in the beginning of their relationship **"Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."**
 - Peter seemed to always go straight into action when it came to following Jesus. (Walking on water, rebuking Jesus and so on.) The one thing missing was Peter's WHY. If he had his WHY I don't believe he would have gone back to fishing for fish.
- Yet, how many of us have grown up with Jesus, His stories, His commandments which we do here and there, but yet we often if not daily return back to our former lives.
 - **A decision produces action. If your actions don't follow then you have not made a decision. Most likely it's Because you don't have WHY.**

- John 21.

- Friends, Our WHY's and our Decision to our WHY'S need to be recommitted daily. Jesus said “[Luke 9:23 NKJV] **“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”**”

- The apostle Paul wrote: [1 Cor 15:31 NKJV] “I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

- **If there is not a WHY** when denying yourself then you will never deny yourself.

- The Reason to deny your fleshly desires.

- **Romans 8:13 “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”**

- A “Christian” has a choice, in fact every person has a choice daily. Do I put off the deeds of my flesh and live for God or do I continue in my dead life.

- It is easy to say “I want to change, but it’s too hard, I desire to change but my life is easier or “ I can’t change, it’s good for you but it must not be for me.”

- **My friends, these are excesses, and we have all made them.**

- **If you want to change and live for Jesus, then daily recall and examine your WHY. Why today are you following Jesus?**

- For Peter, he must have forgotten His WHY. Which is easy to do when you focus on yourself.

- **John 21.**

- I believe Peter's WHY was recorded when he said to Jesus in John 6 after Jesus said **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you."**
 - It was at this point, John records John 6:60 "Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
 - John goes on to write: From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.
 - Jesus turns to the 12 and ask **"Do you also want to go away?"**
 - **And HERE IS PETER'S WHY: He said and I quote: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**
 - **The WHY for Peter to follow Jesus Daily was because Jesus has the words of eternal life and that JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.** A pretty good why to make the decision daily to follow Jesus.
- **BUT** Yet, like Peter many forget or even have never discovered their WHY. Why they leave the life of the flesh to live a life in the Spirit of God.
 - Seriously, Some of you probably have a WHY, but I bet there are those who don't. If I asked your WHY. I believe most would say "Because Jesus died the cross for me."
 - **A great WHY,** but has that WHY caused you to make a decision to live your life for Him today. Does your actions match up to your WHY?

- **John 21 continued:**

- What happens next: **Read 15-19**
- Jesus helps Peter rediscover his WHY.
- “Peter do you love me” three times and by the 3rd time Peter is grieved, he was sorrowful, offended that he was questioned if he loved Jesus.
- **Jesus motive was not to offend Peter, it was to wake him up to what he had been called to do. “That was to FOLLOW HIM.”**
- Jesus reminds Peter of his calling. Peter you are to feed my sheep, Peter you are **to Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**
 - **“Peter don’t go back to your life that I found you in, Walk and live in the new life I have given you.”**
- The same is for you and I. **“Christian, don’t go back to your old life. Discover your WHY, make a decision and then walk (action) in the newness of life.**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”**
- **As you recommit or commit to your WHY, then make the decision to follow through. Then you will find yourself living that new life, a life that is committed to Christ.**

- **John 21 continued:**

- Peter had been challenged to Follow Jesus.
 - Yet instead of saying “I will follow” Peter was distracted by what John was doing with Jesus. **Read with me verses 20-25**
 - John ask’s Jesus a question, And Peter interrupts the conversation by saying “But Lord, what about his man?” in reference to John.
- Jesus responds “Maybe I want him to live until I come, But that shouldn’t matter to you. **YOU FOLLOW ME!**”
 - Peter is like many today. We put off the decision to follow Jesus. Often times it’s because we have our eyes on man instead of Jesus.
 - We say “Well, what about that person, what are they doing.”
 - Or we blame others by saying “It’s so and so’s fault that I can’t serve. They don’t give or support me so I guess I can’t do it.”
 - OR we say “Why isn’t so and so serving? I can’t do this alone.”
 - My personal favorite “ I don’t have the talents of so and so. I guess I can’t be used.”
 - **It’s not other people’s fault. You are making excuses. Your not being used because you are not committed to your WHY. Pointing the finger or turning the attention onto what others are doing or not doing is a great way to get out of doing what you are supposed to do.**
 - I see this in every day life. I say “Clean the dishes” the response, Well what’s so and so doing?

- **John 21 continued:**

- I am guilty of this as well. I have talked myself out of doing things more than once because I don't see others serving, so then I don't do it. Or I have a pity party because I'm not as gifted as others.
 - **Church It's time to break this thinking. Let us Rise above it, Discover the WHY, make a decision and action will come and God will be glorified.**
 - If you continue focusing on man then you don't have to be committed to Christ. This is wrong, needs to be repented of.
 - It gives us an excuse to say, "Well, so and so didn't show up to serve Jesus today so I don't have to."
 - **I love how Jesus handles this heart. "Peter, maybe I will do this with that person, but what is it to you? I have asked you to FOLLOW ME."**
 - **What is it to you what Jesus Does with your neighbor. He asked you to follow Him.**

- **Conclusion.**

- This study has come had a great time in my life. It has shown me that I need to re-discover my WHY.
- From that WHY, then I can make a decision which in the end will produce action pleasing unto the Lord.
- My WHY can't be because of what other men or women are doing for Jesus..

Conclusion.

- No matter what lies before you and I. When you discover your WHY, decisions are easier and actions are rewarding. The results are peace, joy and fulfillment.
 - Fulfillment that we have a purpose, and the Lord is true when He says Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
- So instead of worrying, being stressed out, and going back to old life habits of being in a rut. I encourage each one of you to discover or re-discover the WHY, you follow Jesus.
 - In fact I challenge you to take time to discover the WHY in all area’s of your life.
- **In order to make a change in your life, you need to have a WHY. After you have your WHY then you can make the decision to live out your WHY. And it’s at this point, true and authentic action will be produced.**
- Without a WHY your actions will come and go and you will remain in a rut, living a life without purpose. (Nobody wants to be here) Discover your WHY.
- I believe there are many who can relate to this in their own lives. I know that I can relate.
- **Why follow Jesus. A good place to start is with:**
 - **Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

- **Conclusion.**
 - **Discovering your WHY is massive in your walk with Jesus. Your WHY allows you to make the decision which then produces action.**
 - **An action that won't be eaten up by the birds of the air.**
 - **Action that Trials and tribulation can't stop.**
 - **Action that cares of the world are unable to choke it out.**
 - **If you know WHY you follow Jesus you will produce a good crop. there is nothing that will pluck you out His hand.**
 - **This is not my idea. its TRUTH! JESUS said John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.**
- **The KEY to an abundant LIFE is Knowing JESUS and Knowing your WHY you follow Jesus.**
 - **If you need prayer, We would be honored to pray with you.**
 - **Let's pray.**