

1-5-25 Should've, Could've, Would've

Week 1

Text: Numbers 13; 14:39–45 Deuteronomy 1:19-46.

Topics: Regret, Poor Choices, Rebellion

Big Idea of the Message: The Israelites regretted their rebellion against God, but they tried to correct it with more rebellion.

Application Point: We can't fix our past mistakes by making the same type of choices. We must repent and change our actions.

What is the popular quote on the definition of insanity? The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

How many insane people are there in the auditorium this morning?

What are some of the insane things you continue to do? (Eating poorly, spending money, trusting the wrong people, rebelling against God's will)

Why Do We Make Bad Decision? 5 Surprising Reasons Revealed

The Complexity of Human Decision-Making

Reason 1: Cognitive Biases

Cognitive biases are like those sneaky little gremlins that mess with our perception, memory, and reasoning. They're the reason we sometimes think our ex was perfect (rose-tinted glasses) or why we're convinced that every rustle in the bushes is a serial killer (thanks, horror movies).

For instance, there's the infamous "confirmation bias." It's like having selective hearing in your brain. You only pick up information that confirms what you already believe and conveniently ignore anything that challenges it. It's the mental equivalent of plugging your ears and singing "la la la"

Reason 2: Emotional State

Our emotional state is like the weather for our decision-making. On sunny days, everything seems clear and straightforward. But throw in a storm of anger, sadness, or anxiety, and suddenly, it's like navigating through a fog. The point is, when emotions run high, logic often takes a backseat, leading to decisions that might seem... questionable at best.

Reason 3: Peer Pressure and Social Influence

We humans are social creatures. We crave acceptance, validation, and that warm fuzzy feeling of belonging. But sometimes, this need pushes us to make decisions that are, well, not exactly in our best interest. Like getting that regrettable tattoo on a dare or buying those neon green pants because they're "in fashion."

Reason 4: Lack of Information or Misinformation

In the age of the internet, where information is just a click away, you'd think we'd all be super-informed, right? Wrong! Sometimes, it's like trying to find a needle in a haystack, and other times, we're drowning in a sea of misinformation.

Ever shared a "fact" only to later discover it was as real as unicorns? Yep, been there, done that. The problem is, when we base our decisions on half-truths or outright lies, the outcomes can range from mildly embarrassing to downright disastrous.

Reason 5: Overconfidence

Ah, overconfidence, the sneaky cousin of self-assurance. It's like thinking you're the next MasterChef after successfully making instant noodles. While confidence is great, overestimating our abilities can lead us down a path of bad decisions. It's like trying to fly without wings – spoiler alert: gravity always wins.

Step 1: Own it.

Step 2: Reflect and analyze.

Step 3: Apologize if needed.

Step 4: Create a game plan.

Step 5: Seek feedback.

Step 6: Practice self-compassion. (I would call this forgive yourself)

Step 7: Move forward.

I thought the article had some good points and advice. Some of it had some biblical aspects to it. We can't fix our past mistakes by making the same type of choices. We must repent and change our actions.

Read Numbers 14:39-45.

I. Rebellion can confuse regret with repentance.

- Regret: a feeling of sadness, or disappointment over something that has happened or been done.
- Repentance: The word repentance in the Bible means "the act of changing one's mind." True biblical repentance goes beyond remorse, regret, or feeling bad about one's sin. It involves more than merely turning away from sin.
- Eerdmans Bible Dictionary includes this definition of repentance: "In its fullest sense it is a term for a complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future."
- Repentance in the Bible involves a complete change of heart and mind, leading to different actions (**Acts 26:20**).
- Repentance recognizes that our sin is offensive to God. To repent is to make an about-face, a heart-directed turn away from self to God.
- Repentance sets us on a new trajectory, away from the past toward a future ruled by God's commands.

- Repentance acknowledges that the Lord reigns supreme over our existence.
- The children of Israel got up early, hatched a plan, they would go into the promise land and do what God told them to do already, before they rejected His idea, oh, and they admitted that they had sinned.
- Moses challenges their motives; is their admission of guilt, regret or true repentance? If it is true repentance, they would accept God's decision and get in line with it. **(V.41)**
- Sometimes the consequences of our rebellion cannot be undone.
- Moses says, "this will not succeed, do not go up, you will be defeated, you will fail, you are not obeying God, God will not be with you." **(Verses 42-43).**
- The Israelites regretted their rebellion against God, but they tried to correct it with more rebellion.
- We can't fix our past mistakes by making the same type of choices. We must repent and change our actions.
- There are times when we regret a decision we made, we can be convicted, feel sorry for it, yet we don't repent of it.
- A repentant change of heart will result in the changing of behaviors. Don't tell me you are sorry, show that you are, through the submission (surrendering of one's heart) to the Holy Spirit, who is the only one that can transform you.
- Rubber meet road. This is where most of us opt out. If we are not careful, we can find ourselves in a place where we resist surrendering to the will of God.
- Most of the time Cecil is fine with regret and doesn't want the hard work of repentance. By hard work, I mean to surrender daily, be in a place of humility, flexibility, and teachability.
- The children of Israel had already rebelled against God and there were consequences to their rebellion.
- We have the freedom to make different choices, but we are not free to choose the consequences that come from those choices.

II. Rebellion comes from a heart of unbelief.

- **Read Deuteronomy 1:20-33.**
- God had brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, He met all their needs, even supplying food daily. They even had the audacity to complain about eating the same thing repeatedly.
- **Read Numbers 11:4-6.**
- The children of Israel didn't believe that God would do what was best for them.
- They worried, they were anxiety ridden, thinking that God would not fulfill His promises.
- **Verse 21 of Deuteronomy 1, "Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear of be discouraged."**
- Moses even compromised with their idea of sending out the 12 spies. **(Deuteronomy 1:22-23)**
- Even after their rebellion, Moses reminded them, **read Deuteronomy 1:29-31.**
- Rebellion is opposition to authority. Rebellion always begins in the heart.

- Our sinful natures do not want to bow to the authority of another, even God. We want to be our own bosses, and that rebellion in the human heart is the root of all sin (**Romans 3:23**).
- Rebellion often brews up from a heart of disbelief. Put into action a rebellious individual takes things into their own hands, they won't give up control... in the Christian circle, they won't surrender lordship. Who is in control of your life? Ponder that. Is God really? Or is He just an advisor that we can pick and chose when to listen to?

Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Genesis 18:14

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

III. Rebellion reveals itself through complaining.

- I know this one too well.

Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp Numbers 11:1.

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

- Complaining will destroy your testimony and walk with God.

Do everything without complaining and arguing, 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. 16 Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. Philippians 2:14-16. NLT

- Anyone find themselves in a season of complaining? Complaining is rebellion.

IV. Rebellion leads to rejecting, redirecting and even despising God's plan.

- **Deuteronomy 1:29-33.**
- **Numbers 14:31.**
- The children of Israel started going down the “**If only, why, and would it not be better**” path. **Read Numbers 14:1-3.**
- When we allow rebellion to take root in our heart, we can easily become arm chaired gods. “I think I know better than God.”
- Look at **verse 4. “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”** Reject Moses and Aaron, and God's other leaders and chose one of our own. Then we can tell them what we want them to do, return us to where we think is the right answer, backwards.
- How did Moses respond to the children of Israel's coo?

- **Read Numbers 14:5-9.**
- How would you have responded? I know how I would have.
- Not only did the sin of rebellion cause them to replace God's leaders, but it also caused them to not be able to be reasoned with (they couldn't hear). They couldn't be reminded of all that God had already done.
- Which gave way to wanting to kill Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 14:10).

V. Rebellion will lead to correction from God.

- **Read Numbers 14:11-12, 20-24, 26-36.**
- Brethren, God will only put up with so much sin in the lives of His followers until He puts an end to it.
- Again, you can make the choice, but you cannot choose the consequences.
- God had promised, He had proved Himself faithful over and over, yet the Israelites kept complaining and rebelling against Him.
- This made me wonder how many times have I caused God to say, "How long shall I keep putting up with Cecil?"

Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them. Proverbs 13:24

Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid. Proverbs 12:1

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Revelation 3:19

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God[a] will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. 1 John 5:16

- We see this in the life of Ananias and Sapphira in **Acts 5:1-10**.
- The "sin unto death" is willful, continuous, unrepentant sin. God has called His children to holiness (**1 Peter 1:16, "You shall be holy, for I am holy"**), and God corrects them when they sin. We are not "punished" for our sin in the sense of losing salvation or being eternally separated from God, yet we are disciplined. **"The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son" (Hebrews 12:6).**
- **First John 5:16** says there comes a point when God can no longer allow a believer to continue in unrepentant sin. When that point is reached, God may decide to take the life of the stubbornly sinful believer. The "death" is physical death. God at times purifies His church by removing those who deliberately disobey Him. The apostle John makes a distinction between the **"sin that leads to death"** and the **"sin that does not lead to death."** Not all sin in the church is dealt with the same way because not all sin rises to the level of the **"sin that leads to death."**
- John says that we should pray for Christians who are sinning, and that God will hear our prayers. However, there may come a time when God decides to cut short a believer's life due to unrepentant sin. Prayers for such an unheeding person will not be effective.

- God is good and just, and He will eventually make us **“a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:27)**. To further that end, God chastens His children. May the Lord preserve us from the hard-heartedness that would cause us to commit the “sin unto death.”

What was the application point?

We can't fix our past mistakes by making the same type of choices. We must repent and change our actions.

Yet too often we do the same things over and over and expect a different result. God says be obedient in this area and we decide not yet. Or God convicts us of a certain thing that is taking from His glory in our lives, and we ignore His conviction and don't surrender it.

How long should He continue to deal with it before He steps in? Then, how will we respond when He does begin to correct us?

Should've, Could've, Would've

How to make the decision right when we make the wrong decisions:

Step 1: Own it. No, really, you need to own it!

Step 2: Reflect and analyze. Ponder on God's will, desire and plan for your life.

Step 3: Apologize if needed. Repent! Seek God's direction.

Step 4: Create a game plan. How to keep from falling into the trap again.

Step 5: Seek feedback. Get accountability, allow others to hold you responsible.

Step 6: Practice self-compassion. (I would call this forgive yourself)

Step 7: Move forward. Don't allow your past to determine your future. Learn from it and move forward.