

LESSON 2

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

MATTHEW 1:18—4:25



1 What are some small decisions in life?

2 What are some big decisions in life?



Read Matthew 1:18—4:25, Joseph's Profile, Herod's Profile, and the following notes:

☐ 1:18 ☐ 1:18–25 ☐ 1:19 ☐ 1:24 ☐ 2:3 ☐ 2:4 ☐ 2:8 ☐ 2:13 ☐ 2:16
☐ 4:1 ☐ 4:1ff ☐ 4:1–10 ☐ 4:3, 4 ☐ 4:6 ☐ 4:8–10

3 What helped Joseph make his significant decisions (1:18–21, 24, 25; 2:13–15, 19–23)?

4 How did Herod make decisions (2:3–8)?

5 How did Jesus handle the tempting choices offered by Satan (4:1–11)?

6 How was God involved in the choices of the people in this passage?



7 What was so tempting about the offers the Devil made to Jesus?

8 How can temptations hinder us from making good decisions?

Herod made many wrong choices. Although he built fortresses and palaces, he destroyed lives. And other people paid dearly for his bad choices. In contrast, Jesus made the right choices. Even though the Devil tempted him directly and tried to lure him with offers of fame, power, and authority, Jesus chose correctly in every decision. Likewise, Joseph had only one desire whenever he was faced with decisions: to do what God wanted. Whatever God desired was Joseph's desire. We learn from these examples that every opportunity to make a wrong choice is also an opportunity to make a right choice. The right choice will always honor God. How often do you consider God in your day-to-day choices?

9 Why should Christians include God in their decision making?



10 What kinds of choices require Christians to actively seek God's guidance?

11 Why do people leave God out of small decisions?

12 Why do people leave God out of big decisions?

13 How can you include God in more of your decisions?



14 With what day-to-day choices do you need to seek God's help more often?

15 For what big decision will you seek God's wisdom this week?

- A** What were some of Joseph's strengths or virtues (1:18—2:23)? How did he handle difficult or unexpected circumstances? What does this challenge you to do when you face difficult or unexpected circumstances?
- B** Why is the Virgin Birth (1:18) important to the Christian faith? What makes it important to you personally?
- C** What role did angels play in the birth and early life of Jesus (1:18–21; 2:12, 13, 19–22)? What role do angels play today? How might an awareness of their role boost your confidence in God's ability and willingness to look out for you?
- D** Why did the wise men seek Jesus (2:1, 2)? How did they express their devotion to him (2:9–11)? How can we express devotion to Jesus?
- E** Why did John the Baptist call people to repent (3:1, 2)? Of what do you need to repent?
- F** John the Baptist said harsh things to the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to see him (3:7–10). When is it good to use harsh language with people? How can you be sure to use harsh language only when it is necessary?
- G** How was the Trinity evident at Jesus' baptism (3:16, 17)? How does God make himself known today?
- H** Why do you think Peter and Andrew chose to leave their nets and follow Jesus when he asked them to (4:18–20)? What have you been challenged to leave in order to follow Jesus?
- I** What were the main aspects of Jesus' early ministry (4:23–25)? How are these same ministries carried on today? What is your role in God's work here on earth?

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