



BREAKING POINT



Vol. 2

CROSSROADS

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CROSSROADS

We have arrived at a "crossroads" or a crucial intersection where a decision must be made.

At the time of this publication, there are currently 889,999 confirmed cases of the Coronavirus disease in the U.S. - with over 82,112 recovered and 50,363 confirmed deaths. None of us can realistically brush over this issue of life and death any longer. We all have to be concerned with the state of our souls.



This is what the LORD says:

**"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths, ask where
the good way is, and walk in it, and
you will find rest for your souls.**

But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

Historically, we've already seen a nation grapple with their eternal state only to make the wrong choice at that crucial intersection between life and death. God wanted them to have rest for their souls - they chose otherwise.



This particular volume is based on that "crossroads" experience. It reflects on the historical good and bad choices of others to give us a proper perspective of the choices that we should be making in our own lives.

Sooner or later, we all have to make sound decisions that reflect the eternal state and estate of our souls. It can't hurt to consider biblical principles as a gauge for wise decision making. In fact, I submit to you that there are no better principles for our consideration.



Basically, if I could summarize what I've learned in relation to the text that we're using for today's study - I would simply say:

GOD'S WAY IS THE BEST WAY

You might regard that to be an elementary revelation but it's really not when you consider that God's rebuke in Jeremiah 6 was to young and old, husbands and wives, leaders and followers - any and all of His people who failed to take heed to His teachings. He wanted them to choose wisely.



Let me just conclude this intro by saying that this is not a game - people are dying. And on the flip side, people are living. Therefore, we can no longer pacify them by telling them to just be positive and give out good energy. You will not find that doctrine in the bible and that won't save our souls. That's actually one of the things that God speaks against (Jeremiah 6:14). God is telling us that He knows the best way for us to go. Jesus said, **"I am the way and the truth and the life..."** (John 14:6a NIV). In essence, God's Word is the only wise choice.



DOUBLE MINDED

When I was in prison, I was exposed to a variety of different teachings. It was always refreshing to be able to sit down with Muslims, Atheist, Five Percenters, Jehovah's Witnesses and so on – just to hear and learn their beliefs. But, when dealing with life and death issues such as the eternal state of someone's soul, it became difficult for me to continue hearing phrases like...

"We believe differently but we still serve the same God."



Now anybody that knows me, they know that I'm not a "religious nut" – in any sense of the phrase. God knows that I've made my mistakes in that arena. But God's Word teaches us that Jesus was massacred because He was very monolithic in His teachings. He and His followers taught a very candid Gospel that left no room for anybody to believe that *all beliefs and practices* lead to God the Father (Galatians 1:8).

And, I know that can be a little hard to digest, but we are at a CROSS-roads.



This pandemic is beginning to release people from the custody of the jails into the uncertainty of wavering belief systems. And we can no longer stand-by while hungry minds are fed the idea that "all roads" lead to God. People are dying.

Jesus Himself rebuked one of His greatest followers for not understanding that His cross or His mission had no room for deviation (John 8:31-38).

He couldn't be double minded.



To be double minded is to have two minds. In other words, "*I have a taste for fish tonight but I don't really have a taste for fish tonight*" (in my wife's voice lol :-). We just can't get God's wisdom that way...

For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5-8 ESV

In this season, we have to be more resolute in our faith.



Are we trying to make people saints that posture themselves as perfect? Of course not. But this generation is tired of cotton candy – they want raw meat – sound teaching. In other words, *"If I die today, what does the bible say about the state of my soul? Based on my current lifestyle and belief system – what's next for me? Can I know if I am "in the will of God" or not?"*

Jesus teaches us to be anything but *"lukewarm"* (Revelation 3:15-16) so today – we have some choices to make.



CHOICES

"Today I am giving you a choice. You can choose life and success or death and disaster. I am commanding you to be loyal to the Lord, to live the way he has told you, and to obey his laws and teachings. You are about to cross the Jordan River and take the land that he is giving you. If you obey him, you will live and become successful and powerful."

- Deuteronomy 18:15-18a CEV



When I was little, my grandmother didn't really tell me about all the good stuff that would happen if I did what she told me to do. She mainly emphasized what would happen if I didn't do what she told me. So I can really appreciate God taking that extra step to tell us about all the good stuff that comes with obedience. It's like "icing on the cake" so to speak - and He did it for His people centuries ago.

Yet, the benefits still apply to those of us who make good choices today.



Before crossing over Jordan, Moses shared "God's Benefit Package" with His people. Of course he mentioned a few clauses in the contract if they were to disobey. But he started out by telling them to "choose life and success." Those words still apply to all of us who believe God's Word today.

Think about it, why would anyone choose the opposite of "life and success?" I said it before and I'll say it again...

GOD'S WAY IS THE BEST WAY



Yet, these words still haunt us from our original scripture text...

This is what the LORD says:

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV (with emphasis)

God's people, even after the promise of life that He originally gave them, still chose to head in the opposite direction. *They went the wrong way.*



I can't tell you how many times I followed that model. It amazes me how many times I flirted with death knowing that life was on the other side of the fence. It still baffles me today when I think about that foolish mind state that led me away from success. But that's exactly what it was... *a mind state.*

Now that I look back, I can clearly see that all God wanted to do was to "change my mind." After all, what could be more powerful than a changed mind?



A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

One of the worse atrocities committed during slavery is not what was done to our bodies but it is the indelible imprint that was made on our minds.

Once freed, God's people were willing to go back into bondage rather than be inconvenienced in the wilderness. They got the point where they imagined their slavery experience as better than their freedom (Numbers 11:5).



The recidivism rates in this country are astronomical. This is largely due to an unfair criminal justice system, "tough on crime" laws and practices coupled with the "life sentence" of having a criminal background. However, institutional-ism also plays a huge part in this equation. When someone carries the mindset of the institution with them they can only resort to practicing that same internal perception.

That is why I believe that it's ridiculous to give people resources without focusing on their recovery.



Our minds can't be wasted.

The bible teaches us to meditate on the Word of God "day and night" (Joshua 1:8-9) because that's how we re-new our minds. That's how we reconcile with God. That's how we re-cover.

That same theme plays throughout this entire book. We have to stop "*putting the cart before the horse*" when it comes to our incarcerated brothers and sisters. People need revelation just as much as they need resources.



**"For what does it profit a man to
gain the whole world and forfeit his
soul?"**

– Mark 8:36 ESV

What good is to gain employment if you're not mentally stable enough to keep a job. What good is it to become wealthy and successful if you have stand before God one day only to find out He's not pleased with your soul?

Why are we teaching people to grind without stableness of mind?



The days of confusion are behind us. If you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ and His abundant pardoning of your sins - choose Him today
(Romans 10:9-10).

We are standing at the crossroads and there can be no double mindedness about choosing life instead of death, blessing instead of curse, hope instead of hopelessness.

If you're at a "crossroads"
choose life.