

"THE BRIGHT NEW CHOICE!"
FEBRUARY 12, 2012 - THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
2 KINGS 5:1-14; 1 COR. 9:24-27; MARK 1:40-45
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

We make choices every day. Some choices come easier than others. Some choices are hard to make, it seems we put them off, perhaps in hope we never have to make them. Some of the choices we put off, eventually get made for us; we find ourselves frustrated, lost, or lonely. Today in our Gospel, we hear an incredible story about "choice." The leper calls out to Jesus, 'I know you can heal me and cleanse me, if you choose.' Jesus responds by saying, 'I do so choose.' Do you know God in Jesus has chosen you? Do you know God in Jesus chooses to give you The Bright New Light, leading you like the leper to know faith is no choice at all, but rather a gift? Calling out to The One who saves you, cleanses you and heals you is a gift you have in faith, too. Surrender again! Call on The One who has every choice at his finger tips, and still he comes to you saying, 'Now is the time, I do so choose; I choose you!'

1. We make choices all the time with regard to every aspect of life, from work and family and relationships to our faith journey.
 - A. What motivates the choices that you make and how you make them? Why do you choose what you choose? Why do you choose Jesus? Mark 1:45
 - B. Have you ever chosen not to choose? Sometimes we choose not to choose. The leper could have chosen not to speak up. Mark 1:40
 - C. We may not choose to choose right away because we think the issue or decision deserves more time, a little more study, a little further research, a bit deeper investigation. Sooner or later we must choose to choose. And once we choose to choose the love of Christ, we must choose to act for Christ. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
 - D. Are you able to choose to confess and to share those times you have made the wrong choices and not chosen to make God first? 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Today's Message referenced the book,
Dear Me, *Life Shared In Letters Between The Younger You
And The Older You*, by Warren Hanson

- E. When we get to choose, we feel in control. How do you feel when the choice is not yours? Are you able to leave the choice up to God, when God chooses you in The Bright New Light?
2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 1:40

2. Epiphany is the season which reminds us, Jesus is The Christ, The Bright New Light, The Messiah, The Son Of The Living God! Mark 1:41 "I do choose."

A. God chooses to choose us, and so he sent Jesus to us. Compassion, grace, mercy, longing, purpose and power motivate God's choices and God's choosing of you!

B. Here are just some of the choices God makes:

God chose when to create.

God chose when to send Jesus.

God chose when to let you know

you were His choice,

that He indeed was The One

who had done the choosing!

God chose when and where and

how to reveal The Bright New Light to the world!

God chose when and where and how to offer you

a new epiphany, to make known to you anew,

that He forever has chosen you!