

REFLECTIONS

August 12, 2007

**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.**

Jeremiah 6:16

Choices

"I wish decisions were not so hard," Thomas lamented. He may have been disappointed with his dad's assurance, "The important ones always are."

Thomas stood at a crossroads in his life and he had a choice to make. He had made a similar decision not so long ago, but now was a time to reconsider—and this time the choice was not so easy.

The choice he previously made had not worked out quite as well as he had hoped. The reward received did not justify the sacrifices that had been made. Now he stood at another crossroads and he wished that the paths were easier to choose from. But whatever choice he makes, he knows the outcome may produce a great reward or a disappointing consequence.

There are choices that we make every day of our lives. Most of them are minor in nature such as what to eat for breakfast, which clothes to put on, or which route to take to our destination. There is little reward for these choices and there are usually no large consequences to face either way we choose. But some choices affect the direction of our lives. And those choices are never easy ones to make.

What subject to major in, or which job to take, or who to marry, or how to invest money, these can be life defining choices that most of us have faced in our lives. Then there are the temptations that have challenged us to choose between short-term gratifications and long-term rewards. These choices are not easily made either. Experience tells us that some of the choices will not produce sufficient rewards to justify the sacrifices made.

Just like Thomas we often find ourselves standing at a crossroads deliberating important decisions. Important choices are never easy; but maybe we make them too difficult. Though admittedly the roads will not always be clearly marked, the road we should always choose is the one that leads to the cross. We are still likely to face some disappointing consequences along the way, but the great rewards will justify the sacrifice.

"You are the light of the world,"

Richard +

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