**Mark Series Slide**

I want to give you a few people and scenarios to consider this morning.

And with each scenario, I want you to ask “**Does this person represent human flourishing?”**

To define “flourishing”, we’ll loosely quote the 2nd century church father Irenaeus who said “**The glory of God is a human being fully alive.”- Irenaeous(ish)**

That’s flourishing- Being FULLY ALIVE

Ok, so keeping that definition in mind, answer in your head…are the following people flourishing?

**1) Kim Jung Un**- the dicator who rules N. Korea

* + *(All authority- no vulnerabilty) EXPLOITING*

2) **A poor blind beggar without limbs on the streets of Calcutta, India.**

* + *(All vulnerability, no authority) SUFFERING*

**3) A 35 year old single woman living on a the income of a trust fund whose life consists of mostly sitting in her apartment playing video games, looking at pornography, doing drugs…or just sleeping.**

* + *(No Authority, no vulnerability) WITHDRAW*

**4) Or this list of historical, fictional, and contemporary figures**

* + Mother Theresa
  + Martin Luther King Jr.
  + Corrie Ten Boom
  + The Apostle Paul
  + Harry Potter
  + Harriet Tubman
  + Helen Keller
  + Policemen, firemen, and first responders
  + Super Heros (like Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Iron Man, Captain America)
* Ok…so of those examples…who is flourishing?
* Which of those people are “human beings- fully alive?”
* **Well, I bet you didn't answer “Kim Jung Un”.**
  + Even though Kim Jung Un has LOADS of power and authority. He has loads of money and influence.
  + So why don’t you think that he is flourishing?
  + Isn’t that what’s marketed to us?
  + More money. More power. More authority. More control…and then you’ll have the good life?
* **OK, how about the poor blind beggar on the streets of Calcutta?**
  + Bet you didn’t say “Now THAT’S flourishing! THAT RIGHT THERE IS being FULLY ALIVE!”
  + Probaly not…too much suffering. Too much vulnerability.
* **Now, how about that 35 year old woman playing video games, doing drugs, and looking at porn…** 
  + Bet you didn’t say she was flourishing?
  + But Why?
  + Aren’t we often seduced by the idea that true flourishing is absolute freedom. Doing what you want to do, when you want to do it?
  + Getting all the negative folks out of your life. Indulging in what feels good.

Video games. Anonymous Sex without risk. Sleep when you want.

Don’t worry about bills. Or food. Or money.

Isn’t that sort of the opposite of the beggar in Calcutta.

* + Yet still, we know that’s not flourishing. In fact, it seems…well…a sad existence.
* **Now, how about that last list I gave you?**
  + What did you say about those people?
  + I bet you said, “Those people were flourishing. THEY were living!”
  + WHY?
  + Mother Theresa lived in poverty among the beggars in Calcutta.
  + Helen Keller, was blind, deaf, and mute…extremely vulnerable…full of suffering…why do we think she flourished?
  + Corrie ten Boom watched her family die in a concentration camp in WWII.
  + Harriet Tubman was slave.
  + The Apostle Paul went through intense suffering.
  + Harry Potter was emotionally abused by his foster parents for more than 12 years, and had a constant target on his back from the world’s most evil wizard for his entire life.
  + Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. His family lived under constant threats from the KKK and from political opponents.
  + All those super heros, sure they had power, but they also carried a target on their backs…not to mention the emotional distress of the expectations of entire cities, countries, even worlds…that they are supposed to be the ones to SAVE the world.
  + So WHY? WHY would we even consider that last list of people as “flourishing” and the others NOT?
  + You can’t say, “Flourising means no suffering”
  + Because then you eliminate everyone in our 4th category…while you say the 35 year old video game and porn girl…along with Kim Jung Un are flourishing.
  + And…you can’t say, well flourishing is a complete rejection of authority and power and embracing our vulnerability and poverty…
  + …because then you’d have to look at the beggar in Calcutta and say “now THAT’s LIVING!”
  + So what is it about Harry Potter and super heros?
  + What is it about Helen Keller and Harriet Tubman?
  + What is it about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Theresa and Corrie Ten Boom that, at least for most of us, we say “That’s the way Human Beings are meant to live!”
  + What is it about Jesus, the most exemplary human being who has ever lived…
  + …What is it about HIM that we recognize as “flourishing”, even though his life is primarily marked by the way he died?
* **Here’s what I’m proposing to you today-**
  + There is a sort of secret to flourishing…
  + …to the good life…
  + ...that cannot be marketed…because it would never sell.
  + Its too paradoxical. Its too backwards.
  + And even though, pretty universally, we all know what a beautiful human life looks like…
  + …and each of those lives contain this PARTICULAR ELEMENT…
  + When it comes down to us choosing the way we live our lives…
  + …We often aim at being way more like Kim Jung Un…or way more like the gaming and lusting and medicating 35 year old…
  + …than we actually ever pursue anything we recognize as ‘life’.
* So, I guess, if you’re looking for the secret of the good life…you showed up to church on the right day.
* But I’m gonna warn you.
* You aren’t gonna like it.
* Nobody does.
* Which is why so many of us *(albeit usually not as drastic)* keep turning into some version of Kim Jung Un, Or that 35 year old woman…
* …and usually, when its all said and done…AT LEAST spiritually, emotionally…we end up feeling like the beggar on the streets of Calcutta.
* But, I’m here to tell you, its not too late.
* You can still choose flourishing.
* …and today, that’s exactly what Jesus is going to lay out for you.
* **Title Slide- “The Absurdity of the Way: Why We Want to Fully Alive, but We Aren’t Dying to Do It”- Mark 10:35-11:11**
* For the better part of last year, we made our way through the gospel of Mark.
* Mark is divided up into 3 parts.
* The first 7 1/2 chapters are all about “Hey, the Messiah you’ve been waiting for…the hero…the savior…its this guy JESUS.”
* The third part of the book, made up of chapters 11- 16, is all about, “But this Jesus is not the KIND of Messiah you think he is. You thought he was going to be Kim Jung Un…taking control. Using his authority. Threatening the Romans with his muscle. But he’s not. He’s coming to die.”
* And this middle section…the one from the middle of chapter 8 to the end of chapter 10…is Jesus getting his disciples ready to embrace that truth.
* It starts back in chapter 8 with Jesus healing a blind man…but it was a VERY strange healing.
* It's the only healing of its kind you find in the gospels.
* **Mark 8:23-25**
* Its this blind man…and Jesus heals him. But he does it in stages.
* He spits on the man’s eyes, touches him, and then asks if he sees anything. him At first the mans says “well, I see, but not clearly. Everybody just sort of look like trees walking around.”
* …and Jesus says, “ow’d you know what trees look like, Mr. “*BLIND MAN*”…
* no..he doesn’t say that.
* Then Jesus does it again. He puts his hands on the man’s eyes and he finally, the blind man can see clearly.
* The very next story is Peter confessing that Jesus is the Messiah…and then Peter tells Jesus there is NO WAY he’s gonna let him die and Jesus says to Peter “Get behind me, Satan.”
* The whole idea there is that Jesus’ messiah-ship is counter-intuitive. Its paradoxical. Following Jesus, grasping his oxymoronic die-to-live vision of human flourishing is not easy to swallow.
* Just like that blind man being healed…when you first encounter Jesus’ vision of life…it's a bit blurry. You don't see it clearly. You end up, like Peter, trying to save Jesus from his own deadly ideas.
* But stick with him. Because… he’s actually offering you the good life.
* So today we go to the end of this middle section…and the beginning of the final section of Mark.
* And what I hope you see, is that as Jesus is getting you ready to die, he’s actually getting you ready to be FULLY ALIVE….to flourish.
* **Mark 10:35–52**
* **And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**
* **And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.**
* **Mark 11:1–11**
* **Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”**
* **And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.**
* **Transition:** Here’s what Jesus is showing us about human flourishing
* **1) Being “Fully Alive” means having authority and vulnerability.**
  + Full disclosure, I owe a good bit of the ideas today about authority and vulnerability to Andy Crouch who wrote this little book- “Strong and Weak”. If you want some more thought on what I’m saying today, especially in this first point, you need to read that book. Definitiely one of the best books I read in the last couple of years.
  + Lets define these 2 words. (same slide)
  + **Authority- capacity for meaningful action**

That just means that you have the power to do something and it has effect in the world.

* + - Think Dictator.
    - You merely say the word…and people scramble to make it happen.
    - All authority, NO VULNERABILITY…because…
  + **Vulnerability- exposure to meaningful risk**
    - The root word of vulnerable is the word “woundable”
    - It means there is a real threat to your well being.
    - Think of the beggar in Calcutta.
    - Every single day on the streets, she could lose her life
    - She is ALL vulnerability. But NO AUTHORITY.
    - Right? She has no capacity for meaningful action.
  + Then, there are people who live their lives with neither authority nor vulnerability.
    - How about that 35 yr old drug addict and video game binger.
    - She really doesn’t have the capacity to influence anyone or change her situation without help…
    - …but she also has cut herself off from anyone who can hurt her. She doesn’t really take any meaningful risk.
    - She is just completely withdrawn from life.
  + But that fourth category…you know, Harry Potter, Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa, The Apostle Paul…
  + …they had BOTH.
  + Authority- the capacity to take meaningful action
  + …and Vulnerability- the exposure to meaningful risk.
  + AND THAT, is what Jesus has pointed out over and over and over as the defitinion to FULLY LIVING to his disiciples as he gets them ready for the cross…and…their own individual crosses.
  + Let me show you.
  + **10:33-34**
  + This is the 3rd time Jesus has predicted his death and resurrection in this middle section.
  + Jesus death and resurrection is a perfect picture of complete vulnerability…woundability….REAL MEANINGFUL RISK….
  + …dying for our sin…
  + …experiencing the hell that is rightly ours…
  + this is REAL MEANINGFUL vulnerability…descending into death.
  + At the exact same time, it is authority.
  + Here’s Paul describing the authority of the cross.
  + **Colossians 2:13–15**
  + **And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**
  + In Jesus’ death, he is disarming the condemnation of the law, as well as the evil demonic spiritual authorities that laid claim to your life.
  + His death both has vulnerability AND authority.
  + Meaingful risk, meaningful action.
  + ..and it is THAT DEATH…that precedes his resurrection.
  + The ultimate stamp of a life well lived…is NEW LIFE.
  + LIFE OUT OF DEATH.
* **Back to 1)**
  + That’s why sacrifice is what we all see as the pinnacle of human flourishing.
  + Think about it. Who are your heros?
  + They are ALWAYS the one’s who lay down their lives for others.
  + That was that ENTIRE list I gave you.
  + Its every movie you’ve ever loved, every book that’s ever been dear to you…
  + …it's the stories that humans have been telling for millennia…
  + the only way to really live …is to be ready and willing to die a meaningful death.
  + Sacrificing for others…using your life to serve others… is at the CORE of what makes life…well…LIFE.
* **2) Humility is at the core of being “Fully Alive”.** 
  + Each time Jesus makes one of these predictions of his death and resurrection in this middle section of the Book of Mark, the disciples follow it up with something incredibly dumb.
  + Like they weren’t even listening at all.
  + The first time, Jesus predicts his death, Peter says, “You’re not gonna die. That’s not the way to life. You need to rise to power…be a dictator!”
  + The second time Jesus says “I’m going to die”…the disciples immediately start arguing about which one of them is the greatest.
  + **V 37, 41**
  + Now, after this third predicition,
  + James and John ask to be Jesus’ vice president and secretary of state…
  + …and the other disciples get angry with them…
  + …not because of their incredible hubris…or their bad timing…but because they were beaten to the punch!
  + All of them are standing there going …ugh…Why didn’t ask for those positions first.
  + Now, I want you to see James and John trying to get authority here without vulnerability.
  + They want to have the capacity for meaningful action, without any meaningful risk.
  + **V 35-36**
  + First, they try to get authority over Jesus.
  + “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you.”
  + Hey Jesus, sure, you’re the Messiah and all, but listen to what WE SAY!
  + But look at Jesus’ response.
  + Humility.
  + Ok, what do you want me to do for you?
  + **V 37**
  + Then, they ask for MORE authority.
  + To sit at a ruler’s right and left were both position’s of authority.
  + They were positions of honor.
  + But notice, this is what they say DIRECTLY after Jesus tells them he will be crucified.
  + In other words, they are trying to ensure that they won’t have to suffer. They trying to eliminate risk.
  + **V 38-40**
  + Jesus responds with another question?
  + Asking them if they can handle drinking his cup or being baptized into his baptism?
  + In short, these are 2 metaphors for Jesus death.
  + On the cross, Jesus would drink the cup of suffering. God’s wrath for human sin. The opposite of human flourishing.
  + He would be baptized…or fully immersed…into death.
  + And look at their response…SURE, we can handle that!
  + And Jesus essentially tells them, well, you are going to suffer and die, like me, BUT you aren’t ready for it.
  + That’s clear because you don’t understand authority and vulnerability yet.
* **V 42- 45**
  + You don’t understand that you can’t skip suffering.
  + You don’t understand that the way to life is through dying.
  + The way to freedom is becoming a slave.
  + You don’t yet fully understand that the Son of Man came not to BE SERVED, but to serve.
  + In other words, they were just like that blind man Jesus healed at the first of this middle section. They could kind of see…but they didn’t yet have the full picture.
  + …and so, Mark ends this middle section of his gospel with another story of blind man.
* **v 32a (end at afraid), 46**
  + Notice the contrast between the story about the disciples and the story about Bartimaeus
  + Both of them happen on the road to Jerusalem.
  + Which is an asending climb up a mountain…at the same time, Jesus has told them this is where he will die.
  + In other words, it's a way up that leads to death.
  + Its authority walking into vulnerability.
  + Note also, that this word, “road” is the Greek word “Hodos”
  + It means WAY.
  + Walking down a road is Hebrew metaphor for life.
  + And don’t forget that the book of the Mark opens up with John the Baptist saying “Prepare the HODOS for the Lord”
  + …prepare the way for the Messiah to COME IN.
  + Additionally, John quotes Jesus saying, “I am the HODOS, the way, the truth and the life”
  + So Mark is constrasting 2 ways. One is Kim Jung Un.
  + How quickly can I rise to power and avoid vulnerability.
  + How can I be strong and eliminate weakness?
  + Constrasted with this other way…of this blind Bartimaeus.
  + And note… the disciples are afraid…
  + They counter that fear with upping their authority, and trying to rid themselves of vulnerability..”Put us in a powerful position”!
  + **V 47-48**
  + But Bartimaeus though he is bold (he cries out to Jesus)…
  + …he is also incredibly HUMBLE!
  + He doesn’t say, “let me sit at your right hand” …assuming that he is worthy of that…
  + He assumes he is NOT worthy of Jesus’ touch…that’s why he asks for MERCY.
  + “Please, because of who YOU are, not bedcause of who I THINK I AM…be merciful!”
  + **V 49-50**
  + And Jesus stops…and says call him
  + …and don’t you love what the people say to him?
  + “Take heart! Be courageous! Taqke a risk! Get up! He’s calling YOU!”
  + Do you see it?
  + In humility, by Bartimaeus not assuming his worthiness, but recognizing his unworthiness…he is called forward.
  + To WALK with Jesus.
  + I also want you to note that he throws off his cloak.
  + A Cloak would have been a Jacket protecting him, a pillow for his rest, and the way that people gave him money…people gave their alms to beggars by tossing it on their open coats.
  + In other words, this marginalized, “by the road”, not moving forward in life…blind man…is abandoning his one eathly possession to take a meaningful risk on Jesus…in complete humility and vulnerability.
  + **V 36 & v51**
  + And then Jesus asks the blind man the exact same thing he asked James and John
  + “What do you want me to do for you?”
  + That is the question that is at the root of everything in your life.
  + “What do you want Jesus to do for you?”
  + Nothing?
  + Because you don’t really believe he is real…or doesn’t really care…or doesn’t really have the authority to do anything?
  + Or do you answer that question like James and John did?
  + In pride…
  + “I want power. I want authority. I want the good life. I want be served.”
  + Or…do you answer like Bartimaeus?
  + “I want to see”
  + I want to see.
  + You know, there is more here than just a blind man seeing.
  + Seeing is used all through Mark’s gospel as a metaphor for understanding.
  + We use it that way now. If you suddenly understand something..you say, “Ah…I see”
  + James and John didn’t see, because they wanted to increase, withouth decreasing.
  + They wanted to be served, not to serve.
* **V37 & 46 (bold SIT or SITTING in both)**
  + See,
  + The disciples were following Jesus on the road to his death, but they asked if they could SIT…if they could get out of the WAY…remove risk and vunerability…have AUTHORITY
  + Bartimaeus is SITTING by the side of the road. Completely vulnerable with NO AUTHORITY…no ability to change his circumstances…
  + …and he gives up the little he does have…his cloak…
  + to follow Jesus.
  + The disciples in fear, grab for authority and power, and reject vulnerability in order to escape pain…
  + …and Jesus says..you will drink the cup of suffering and death…
  + But don’t be afraid, because I’m going to serve you…on a cross…and in my resurrection you will finally SEE.
  + In the meantime, though, there are some people who are starting to get it.
  + Like Bartimaeus.
  + **V52**
  + Who now, by humble faith, can s*ee*…and even in the new power he’s been given…he still embraces vulnerability, walking away from his cloak, his video games, his pornography, his drugs (everything that promised to shield him from the coldness of the world), and boldy, without fear, follows Jesus into Jerusalem…headed toward a cross.
  + Bartimaeus is flourishing.
* **Back to 2)**
  + So what does this reality…about the true way to flourishing through humility mean for us?
  + **A) Patience** 
    - 3 times in this section Jesus showed them the way to resurrection, to forgivness, to being ransomed…and they didn’t get it.
    - They held on to the way of power, instead of the way of Jesus.
    - So we need to be patient, with ourselves…and with our brothers and sisters.
    - We are like blind men, and most of us, well, all of us don’t see the way of Jesus clearly. We see trees walking around.
    - So be patient, because we are all humbled by Jesus in stages.
    - Instead of noting how slow other people are to understand…
    - Instead of looking at others and saying “What idiiots!”
  + Take a good look at yourself and say, “How am I being a self-serving power grappling idiot right now?”
  + B**) This changes the way we use power.**
    - We don’t use power for ourselves.
    - We use it for other.
    - The essence of a servant is somebody who says, “I don’t have to jockey for position. I don’t have to always be trying to make sure everybody likes me or knows me. I don’t need any thanks anymore. It’s my job to move out toward others and see what people need and give it to them.”
    - A servant is somebody who makes you feel so valuable.
    - Dietrich Bonhoeffer says it’s the natural impulse of the human heart when you meet somebody else you immediately look for a position of strategic superiority. You automatically say, “What does this person think of me? Is this the kind of person I want? Is this the kind of person I want to know?”
    - But servanthood is opposite.
    - Its saying, who is this person and how can my authority and power be used to serve them?
    - **ILLUS**
    - Imagine sitting next to your mother on her deathbed and you ask her, “Mom, can I do anything for you?”
    - And she says, “I want you to take care of your brothers and sisters. They need you. Don’t do anything for me, I lived my life serving you. I didn’t choose to be your mom so I could serve myself…I was here to serve you. Now, if you love me, go serve your siblings.
    - That’s essentially what Jesus says to us, the church from the cross.
    - See, I’ve ransomed you. I’ve freed you from trying to save yourselves. Now, I’m not asking you to do something for me, I don’t need that. Look at the power of my resurrection.
    - But, what you to do the most vulnerable. What you do to the least of these. The beggar by the road, the withdrawn drug addict…the broken…what you do to them, you do to me.
    - How are you using your power, your money, your influence, your authority?
  + **3) and you do this in community!**
  + You know why?
  + Because its impossible to serve others…well…without others.
  + Its impossible to follow Jesus along the WAY…alone.
  + Because there is a church…there are others…following Jesus with you.
  + …the truth is… Flourishing cannot describe an individual…it can only describe a community
* **Transition:** …and to find it…

**3) You have to choose between 2 Ways- Jesus’ or Pilate’s**

* + Psalm 118- Finale of halel Psalms
  + 3 great Jewish feasts every year
  + **Mark 11:9-11**
    - on the way to Jerusalem, you’d sing the halel songs.
    - Halel means “praise”.
    - So hallelujah means “Praise YHWH”
    - Jesus is riding in on a colt through the east gate…
    - Those are the fulfillments of prophecies ted Malachi and Zecerhiah
    - He is coming to the chants of the pinnacle of the “Praise YHWH” Psalms.
  + The very next step would be to take his rightful place as a ruler, the ultimate authority and lead the Jewish people in a revolt to overthrow Rome.
  + And it seems its going to happen…
  + …but then, he just walks into the temple…looks around…and then turns around and leaves and goes out to Bethany.
  + Very anti-climatic.
  + The question is …instead of abandoning Jesus in their disappointment, will they follow Jesus to his death…like Bartemius…
  + There is a Compare and contrast between 2 choices
    - Bartemeus vs the Rich Guy
    - Jesus entrance to JERUSALEM- vs Pilate’s Procession
    - Pontius Pilate also there for Passover
    - He would have come to the city for the week of Passover
    - He would have come from the West on a war horse evoking fear in every Israelite citizen.
    - Israel oppressed again.
    - Passover a time of angst and anger
    - Imagine we’re conquered by N Korea
    - Imagine what the 4th of July would be like
    - Pilate with his army, Jesus with disciples
    - Pilate with his taxation, Jesus with his Kingdom proclamation
    - Jesus would wind up with a sign over his head “King of Jews”
    - Man w Everything vs Man w Nothing
    - Call to the reader…which way will you choose?
    - Bart or Rich man?
    - Pilate or Jesus?
    - I like option C…but we get either or…2 choices
    - Choose life or death- Torah
    - Wisdom- Wise or fool
    - Prophets- Baal or YHWH
    - Jesus- Me or Power, money
* **Back to 3)**
  + Dinner and going to house of girlfriend? Which will you choose?
  + Business man? Cheat and gain, or be honest and lose?
  + Which way will you choose?
  + Parent- Long hard day of work-
  + Crash on the couch, or get on the floor and play and pray?
  + Post on Social media-
  + Look cool…or do something productive
  + Cash paycheck- which way do you choose?
  + Angry with spouse and want to say what’s on the tip of tongue?
  + Which way will you choose?
  + Donkey way or Horse way
  + Lust impatience
  + Holiness freedom
  + Doubt cynicicms, or hope and encouragement
  + All through the day we face choice after choice after choice.
  + “Cheer up! Take Courage! On your feet! He’s calling you…to die!”- THROW OFF YOUR COAT!
* **LORDS Supper.** 
  + You either take it or you don’t
  + Jesus is the Lion authority power
  + And the lamb, vulnerable, dying on cross for you

“Take heart! Be courageous! Taqke a risk! Get up! He’s calling YOU!”