

**THE BIG IDEA: We want to collect many gods, but we need to select one God.**

### The Take-Off

ILL: Man caught naked during church baptism service

QUOTE: “Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.” - John Maxwell

It’s important to understand this because INDECISION can be a toxin, and our enemy would love to get us stuck in the land of unlimited choices.

I’m going to add a little nuance here without giving a lot of time to unpack it, but by “INDECISION” I don’t mean taking the time to weigh the decision.

Jesus even said to count the cost in Luke 14:28-29

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,” NIV

But here’s the thing: everything Jesus said in that moment was about making a choice

Luke 14:25-35

- v. 26 / the choice to come to Jesus
- v. 26 / the choice to love Jesus more than anyone else (that’s what “hate” means here)
- v. 27 / the choice to follow Jesus in death to self

Jesus is saying, “Weigh the decision, but don’t wait forever to make the decision.”

So, again, by INDECISION I’m focusing specifically on the toxin of thinking that we can say yes to everything, keep all our options open, and be okay.

Here’s a Big Idea to help cement that: **We want to collect many gods, but we need to select one God.**

Let’s turn to Joshua 24, and make an initial observation that none of us can really debate.

## 1. Too many options will eventually overwhelm us

- a. The problem with choices? We don’t always know what choice to make, or we get tired of making choices
- b. Did you know we’re estimated to make 35k decisions A DAY??
- c. Decision fatigue is real, and the more choices we have, the more tired we become, and the less likely we are to make a wise choice.
- d. The Cheesecake Factory menu is famous for this
  - 20 pages with 250 choices
  - It’s that big because the founder wanted everyone to have whatever they wanted
  - Most people get overwhelmed and order something familiar
- e. Because we don’t like to choose, we start to collect
- f. Remember, we want to collect, but we need to select
- g. **Joshua 24:15** / the Israelites were collecting idols and gods along the way, but God called them to make a choice - He calls us to that, too
- h. He isn’t an egomaniac who needs to be at the top, but rather a kind Father who knows too much will overwhelm us
  - Prov. 25:16 / If you find honey, eat just enough— too much of it, and you will vomit.
  - 1 Tim. 6:6 / Godliness with contentment is great gain
  - Phil. 4:11 / I have learned the secret of being content in every circumstance
- i. In a world that tells us more is better (be collectors), God tells us that less is healthier (become selectors)
- j. The fact that the “24 hour around the clock connection to everything everywhere” culture is the most anxious one we’ve ever seen is strong evidence of this
- k. Which brings us to our second observation...

## 2. Less is the door to more

- a. We’ve heard the phrase “less is more,” but the truth is that less leads to more, and God knows it
- b. That’s why He calls us to choose
- c. Luke 16:13 / **No one can serve two masters.** Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- d. The Pharisees sneered at this logic BECAUSE they had already made a choice, and it wasn't Jesus
- e. God knows that we will serve something or someone so instead of overwhelming us with lots of choices, He simplifies it
  - Deut. 30:19 / Life or death
  - In our passage / all those gods or Me
  - Jesus takes it even further, and simply says, "Come, follow Me."
- f. Making that ONE choice opens the door to so much more!
- g. John 10:10 / the enemy kills us with increased options ("Did God really say...?"), but Jesus resurrects us when we simply choose Him
- h. QUOTE: "I've learned to say to the Lord, 'The answer is yes; now, what was the question?'"

### The Landing

The end result of selecting God instead of collecting gods?

Clarity replaces confusion; focus replaces fear; and, courage fuels our witness!

ILL: Pastor who went from his home in the states to YWAM in Hawaii one step at a time by simply saying, "yes."

Let's pray