

April 14, 2024

Reflection Acts 13.13-15, 19

Peter preached, "But you rejected the Holy and Righteous one and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life." These people embraced a criminal and a murderer named Barabbas whereas, Jesus, the giver of life was rejected. Peter continued to say, "You preserved a murderer, a destroyer of life; and destroyed the Savior, the author of life." Peter was not afraid to confront their sin, and he showed amazing boldness. The Jewish crowd requested that Jesus be crucified, despite Pilate, the Roman governor, wanting to spare him (John 18.29ff). Therefore, without Jewish leaders' insistence, the Romans would not have crucified Jesus, and the Jews could not have crucified Jesus without Roman approval. What would you have done or chosen if you had been a Jew at the time or Pilate?

Every day, hundreds of significant and insignificant decisions are made by people. It's likely that not every choice you make will be the right one, even though some of them work out well. It is important to remember that decisions that are incorrect, defiant of God, or in opposition to the guidance of the Holy Spirit will result in our spiritual death. For instance, there are moments when we refuse to help others because we believe that we should have our weekends to ourselves. We decide not to donate to the church because we are saving for the future or because the financial situation is unpredictable. We occasionally think we shouldn't be overly spiritual out of concern for alienating friends. In the end these bring sorrow, anguish, destruction, and painful, enduring effects.

Thankfully, Peter serves as a helpful reminder of how to rebuild and revitalize our broken relationship with God. "Therefore, repent and turn to God so that your sins may be erased," he says. Learning to distinguish between what is and is not relevant in God's eyes is a necessary component of spiritual development. The crucial component of making spiritual decisions is letting God, not we to choose what is significant. You might be in a situation right now where you must make a decision that will have a significant impact on your spiritual and emotional well-being. Alternatively, you might be thinking back on your life and realizing that, considering your friends' criticism or the distance you sense between you and God, you need to reevaluate your priorities. Let's be conscious that making spiritual decisions involves giving top priority to things that will keep you near to God. Your finest choices therefore emerge from a climate of prayer and God's WORD.