

## The Abundant Life #8 *I Choose Abundance*

### Joel 3:14 - NKJV

<sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!  
For the day of the Lord *is* near in the valley of decision.

CEV - <sup>14</sup> Crowds fill Decision Valley. The judgment day of the Lord will soon be here—

We have been looking at a series entitled, ***“The Abundant Life.”***

- I wanted to take some time this morning to recap what we’ve been talking about and to sync this series thought to our hearts.

Almost 2,800 years ago ***the prophet Joel*** spoke of people who are stuck in a valley and ***unable to make a decision***.

- You would think that after 2,800 years things would be different.
- You would think by now that we humans would be capable of making a decision on some things in our lives.
- But apparently, some of the same struggles that they had in that day, we still have today and one of them is ***the ability to come to a conclusion*** on a few very important things in our lives.

800 years after ***the prophet Joel*** mentions these people who struggle in their lives with ***the agility to make a decision, Jesus said...***

### John 10:10 - NKJV

<sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

So we have **this promise from God** that we could live an abundant life.

- Now we’ve spent several weeks talking about ***what the abundant life*** looks like,
- What’s important to understand --- Every single day of our lives is that ***The Abundant Life is a decision!!!!***

We have to **make a decision** as to whether or not we are going to ***live The Abundant Life!!!!***

It's a **decision**

- A conscious **choice**
- Every day – **decide**
- **I choose** The Abundant life

I know that some **really crummy stuff** is happening right now, ***but I choose Abundance.***

- I **choose** to be happy.
- I **choose** to love others.
- I **choose** to show grace
- I **choose** to be generous

I **choose** to ***allow God to work in me and through me*** to bless others.

- And as a result, **I will in turn be blessed.**

I don't know about you, but **this series has really been effecting me** lately.

- It's caused me to be **much more forgiving** of other people.
- I've been showing **grace in ways I never really considered** in the past.

One of those areas is when people ***make mistakes.***

- I'm learning to be patient and understanding.
- Like when **the waitress** gets the order **all wrong**.
- I'm like, "That's ok, I'll just eat what you brought me.
- I need something different anyway." ☹️
- Now don't think me as a saint, sometimes I really want what I ordered, but when I can, **I try to show kindness and grace.** 😊

**Luke 6:38 - NKJV**

<sup>38</sup> **Give**, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with **the same measure** that you use, it will be measured back to you."

I know ***we use this scripture*** when we are talking about ***our financial giving***, but I believe ***the principle of this scripture goes way beyond that.***

- I believe a person can make ***a decision*** to ***give in many ways.***
- You give when ***you smile*** at someone. Or ***say “Hello”***
- You give when you ***show love*** to someone you just met.
- Or someone who ***does not deserve your love*** for them at that moment.
- You give when you ***allow someone to make a mistake*** and ***you are patient*** and even ***help them to correct*** it.
- This is what I've been working on in ***my own life.***
- Especially the ***being patient*** and ***forgiving thing.***

**Example: Waitress at Frisch's**

Luke 6:38 - For with ***the same measure*** that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

What constitutes **the Abundant Life** for you?

- Are you someone who makes **a lot of mistakes?**
- **Sow some seeds of kindness.**
- Sow some **forgiveness.**
- ***Making a decision*** to live ***The Abundant Life doesn't mean that abundance is just going to come rolling your way*** just because ***you know Jesus.***
- But ***it is*** going to happen as you **plant the seeds** and **reap a harvest** of the things you need in your life.

Do you need more **spiritual blessings** in your life?

- Then, ***plant some spiritual seeds.***
- Pray
- Read your bible.
- Worship
- **Plant spiritual seeds, when you do, spiritual blessing will come your way.**

Sadly, the only thing **some people know** about God is **His name.**

- Which is a **good first step**
- **When** they have **trouble** in their life, It's like, ***Hey Jesus, I need your help.***

### Maybe we should plant some seeds here.

- Maybe we should get into the God's Word and find out about Him.
- How could our lives serve Him better.
- How Could we be a better witness and example to others.
- Before we go "Needing Him to fix our problems all the time."
- **Maybe open a door so to speak.**
- You never know, you might have just opened the door for the manager.

### I know a person who's always doing for other people.

- They have a very generous heart.
- I've been watching them make some right decisions in their lives.
- They were Blessed as they said someone gave to them financially and they don't even know why!!! **But, there was a need!!!!**
- They **Don't get** how God's people know how to help them
- But, I believe He does. 😊
- We may have Daily life struggles, then God places someone in their path to speak wisdom.
- They **landed the job** they didn't even think they could get...

### How did that happen?

- They chose Abundance, not when the struggles started, but several months ago when they said, **"I'll be helping more at the church."**
- They were planting some seeds.
- They didn't really know they were planting seed, but they been reaping the harvest of their generosity of late.

### Does anyone in here need someone to forgive you of something?

- You know who people forgive?
- People who forgive.

The **Abundant Life** for some of us would simply be living in the realization that someone we hurt very badly many years ago has forgiven us.

- **Do you know how that is going to happen?**
- **Forgive!**
- What you do unto others is what is going to be done unto you.
- I know it sounds impossible, **but it's true**.

I don't know how you feel about it, but ***I choose abundance.***

- I choose not to be angry.
- Not to be selfish
- Not to be unforgiving
- Not to be self-centered

**I choose The Abundant Life**

- I choose to be happy.
- I choose to love.
- I choose to forgive.
- I choose generosity
- I choose kindness

**It's A CHOICE!**

***I'm not sure we are supposed to live any other kind of lives especially as believers.***

- I'm pretty sure we are supposed to be a bit more like Him than we are ourselves.
- **Paul said , 1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV - Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.**

Paul said, **I'm trying to be like Jesus.**

- Someone said, "Well, I'm my own man.
- I don't need anyone to tell me how to live."
- ***How's that working*** out for you - really?

Jesus is our example and we'll never truly understand what it is to live ***The Abundant Life,*** until we begin to follow Him and His teachings.

Jesus told his disciples, ***Matthew 4:19 – NKJV - Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."***

- To become fishers of men was to enter the ministry.
- ***Following Jesus*** helped those men find God's purpose for their lives.

**CLOSE:**

**The most confident and blessed and happy people are people who have found God's purpose for their lives.**

- Can we say we've found that yet?
- **God's purpose?**
- **It's a choice.**
- Those men could have said "no" and kept on fishing.
- But instead, they made **a decision** and immediately set down their nets and **followed after Jesus.**

**What's your decision today?**

- Are you going **to stay** in the valley?
- **Stuck** with the rest of the masses who **can't decide** whether or not to know Jesus?
- Whether or not to accept Him into their lives?
- Whether or not to live **the Abundant life?**

Have you ever heard this phrase, **"Going Forward"**?

- We say it a lot.
- Going forward, I'm going to do such and so.

What happens when **"Going Forward happens in our lives???"**

- **we move from the stuck place,**
- we are at a place of momentum that is forward moving.

**We make a decision to not stay where we've been, and we "move forward".**

- And as we "move forward" in Christ some positive things begin to happen.
- Some small and some not so small changes begin to take place in our lives
- As they do, John 10:10 begins to happen as ***The Abundant Life*** that Jesus came to bring us begins to take place in our lives.