

THE POWER OF CHOICE
Feast of Tabernacles 2019

- * The Purpose of Sermon -- to discuss "The Power of Choice"
 - * There are 2 great powers in this life --
 1. the power of God's Spirit
 2. the power of choice
- 2 Cor. 4:7 we have this treasure in earthen vessels
8 hard-pressed on every side -- yet not crushed
 perplexed -- but not in despair
9 persecuted -- but not forsaken
 struck down -- but not destroyed
10 always carrying -- the dying of the Lord and
 the life of the Lord
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Most of you have heard the story about the son of Abraham Lincoln (Robert Lincoln) being saved on a train station. Here are some excerpts from an account published by Brad Smithfield.

- * In early 1865, Robert Lincoln was apparently commuting by train from New York to Washington. As the story goes, he was just getting off from a train at Jersey City, New Jersey -- planning to catch another train to Philadelphia.
- * Patiently waiting for his Philadelphia ticket, he was in a rather awkward position -- backed up against a train door as the dense crowds of people were hastily purchasing their sleeping-car places.
- * The train suddenly began to move, moving Robert off his feet and he fell into the narrow gap between the two cars and the platform.
- * A gentleman saw through the orderly stampede and swiftly caught the young Lincoln by his collar -- pulling him up to safety. The train was just beginning to move and if it wasn't for the gentleman's quick thinking, Robert would have been seriously injured or worse.
- * Robert saw the brave man's face and immediately recognized him as the actor from the theater (Edwin Booth) -- who played Hamlet better than anyone else. Many historians agree that Edwin was the greatest Shakespearean tragic hero. As a highly successful actor, he founded the "Booth's Theater" in New York in 1869 (which was a very modernized theater for its time. Edwin toured in America and Europe.
- * Sadly, his theatrical success was greatly overshadowed by the president's assassination -- at the hands of his own brother (John Wilkes Booth).

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- * You did not choose your natural family
 - * You did not choose your DNA
 - * You did not choose your gender or your race
 - * You did not choose to be born into poverty or into prosperity
 - * Sometimes, our lack of choices angers us -- "It's not fair"
 - * Yet, any injustice in this life is offset by the honor of choosing our future
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- * Abel and Cain were both sons of Adam
Abel chose God -- Cain chose murder -- God let him
 - * Abraham and Lot were both pilgrims in Canaan
Abraham chose God -- Lot chose Sodom -- God let him
 - * David and Saul were both kings of Israel
David chose God -- Saul chose power -- God let him
 - * Peter and Judas both denied their Lord
Peter chose mercy -- Judas sought death -- God let him
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* Disciples make choices

- Matt. 7:13-14 narrow gate or wide gate?
big crowd or small crowd?
- Matt. 7:24-27 built on rock or sand?
- Matt. 25:34,41 inherit the Kingdom or fire?
40,45 helping the least or not?

* Beautiful example

- Matt. 27:44 the 2 thieves said cruel things
- Luke 23:39 one malefactor said -- if you be Christ, save yourself and us
- 40-41 the other said -- you should fear God; you are getting the same punishment He is; we are punished justly, getting what we deserve for what we did; but this man has done nothing wrong
- 42 Lord, remember me when You come into your kingdom
- 43 Jesus said -- you shall be with Me in paradise

* The future awaits you

- Rev. 21:1 new heaven and new earth
- 2 holy city -- New Jerusalem
- 3 the tabernacle of God is with men
- 4 God will wipe away tears -- no more death, sorrow, crying or pain