

The Center of Choices

By: Zach Collins

Isaiah wrote, in **Isa. 30:21**, “*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.*” (NKJV)

I find this verse thought provoking, especially when it comes to the choices we make, in this life.

I mean, life is full of choices, isn't it? Every single day, you and I, we make choices and those choices often determine the story that we write in this temporary life and our eternal life, right?

It's baseball season, so I thought I would share an uplifting baseball story with you.

Ruth Ryan, wife of Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, and she had one moment, in every game, that she looked forward to. It was a simple moment, it was a simple choice, that was made by her husband, and this choice made all the difference in their lives together. It probably happened the first time on the high-school baseball diamond in Alvin, Texas, in the mid- 1960s.

Then it happened repeatedly for three decades after that. It was a simple, thoughtful moment and the moment was this: Inevitably, sometime during a game, Nolan would pop up out of the dugout and scan the stands behind home plate, looking for Ruth.

He would find her face smiling at him and, in return, he would grin at her, maybe snapping his head up in a quick nod. It was like he was saying, "*There you are; it's so good to see your beautiful face!*" And, Ruth, in return, she would wave and flash him a smile.

Then, Nolan would duck back under the dugout and turn back to the game. It was a simple moment, never noted in record books or career summaries. But, in all the moments, in all of the games, in all the memories they made together, it was this decision, to look her way, that proved the most important to her.

With this simple choice, Nolan showed Ruth that, at the center of all the moments and decisions in his life, was her.

What a beautiful thought that is.

I've been thinking a lot about choices lately, and how those choices influence and impact my Faith, not just myself. And, unfortunately, that's the first person that comes to our minds, when we make choices, self, and not God, right? In the 22 years since God

created me, I have found this statement to be unequivocally true:

Every day, I make choices and when those choices revolve around God, those choices always turn out great. Those choices always lead me to some wonderful places, in my life. But, sometimes, I make some BAD choices. And, as I reflect upon those decisions, at the heart of all that decision, God was not at the center, self was at the center.

And, if we are not careful these self-made choices, they can lead us to some dark, dark places in our lives, right?

The truth is, our lives, they are made out of the choices we make. That's no secret. After all, that's why our God thought it wise to give us freewill to make our own choices in this life, choices that will lead us down our own direction.

But, that doesn't mean that God doesn't expect to be at the center of those choices, because He does. He always expects to be the center of those choices, doesn't He? God wants us to take the time, out of our busy day, to seek His face, to tell Him that we are glad He loves us, to tell Him that we are glad He is looking out for us. That's all He wants!

Read that verse again, "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "***This is the way, walk in it,***" whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."

(Isaiah 30:21)

Every time you make a decision, God is with you. He is there, no matter the circumstance, no matter the situation, to provide you guidance. God is telling us which decision will lead us down the path to Heaven!

But, there's a catch: We have to look at Him for that answer in His word, we have to seek His guidance in prayer. We have to show Him that, at the center of our lives, is Him. And, in this life, as long as we have Him, that's all that matters.

Can I ask you a question: Who is at the center of your choices?