

Sermons
New Testament
Hebrews
11:24-26

Title: Choosing

Theme: "

Proposition: The most important things of life must be
chosen.

Chasing

Scripture: Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he was come to years refused to be called the son of Pharoah's daughter ; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ~~Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.~~

Text: Hebrews 11:25

"Choosing - - $\frac{1}{2}$."

SERMONS
New Testament
Hebrews
11:24-26

-2-
Introduction: Choosing is a simple word that connotates an immense conception.

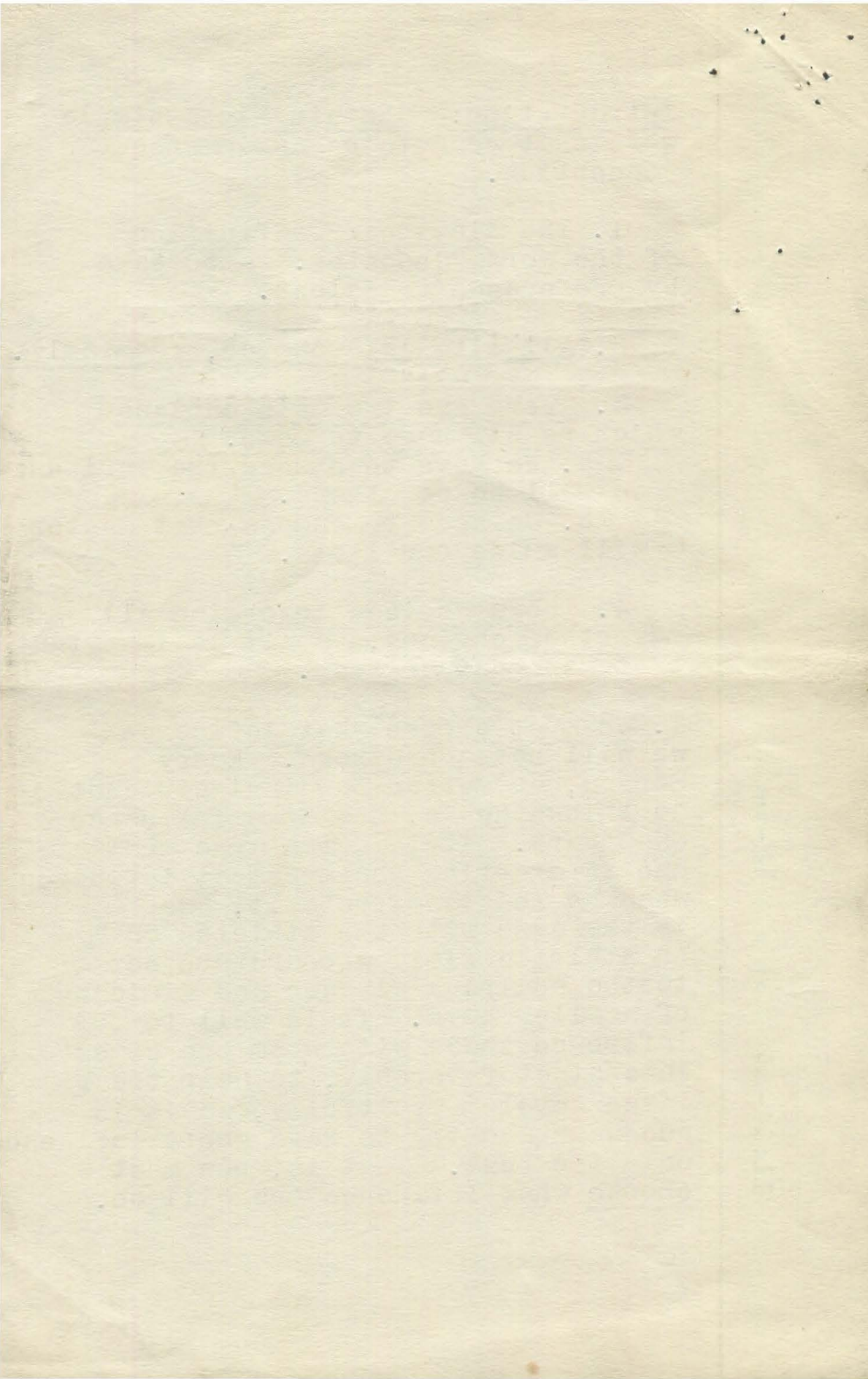
1. The dictionary definition of the word "Choosing:" - to take by preference or select.

2. All life is a choice, seemingly.

3. There are two main choices which we all have to make. *how we seem to others*
a. We have to choose the influence we will be on others. *how we really are*
b. We have to choose what master will guide our lives. *to God*

4. These choices determine all *how we will seem to others*
our other choices, so it is important that we consider them.

I. We must choose what influence *how we will seem to others*
we will have on others. Every person, no matter how insignificant he thinks he is, has some influence on others. It is often true that one is exerting the greatest influence when he least expects it, as is the case with the athletes on an athletic field who are subject to the admiring glances and mimicing of smaller boys. It is well to influence those with whom one comes in contact favorably, to help their lives develop fruitfully, so it is necessary to try to have one's influence only the best. That is, one must choose what influence one will be.



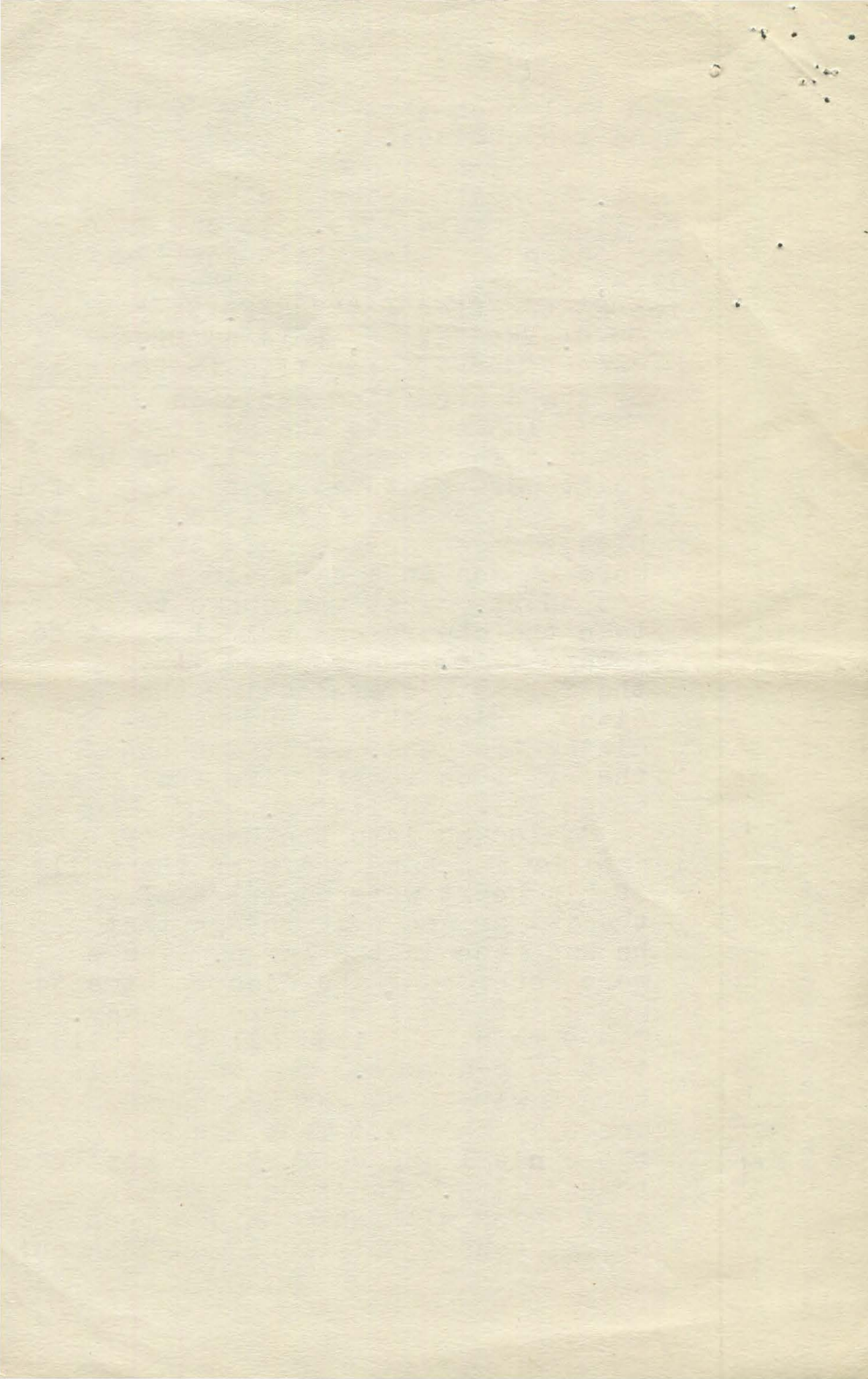
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The influence that we have depends upon two choices.

1. We must choose the proper attitude toward life. We can take any one of varying attitudes toward life, though there are perhaps two contrasting attitudes.

a. This story, told by Dr. Knight of Atlanta, illustrates both of the contrasting attitudes.

"I looked into the heart of a man. There on the walls of his heart were pictures of the beautiful things he had seen in life. All the blue, discouraging, ugly things were hidden in a dark closet of his heart. That man chose to take the cheery and bright attitude toward life. He enjoyed it to the fullest, over-looking the discouraging things and emphasizing the good. That man had the attitude toward life that makes it worth living.

"I looked into the heart of another man, and there on the walls of his heart were pictures of the vulgar and ugly things that he had seen in the world. There were records of the disappointments and griefs that had come his way. There were exhibited all the failures that he had made. The beautiful things were obscured by the dark and ugly things. That man had the cynical and dark, moody attitude toward life. Can't you see him contrasted with the man who took only the best out of his environment



and let the rest go by."

b. This story also illustrates the fact that we may choose our attitudes.

"A king sent his servant out for roses. While this servant was out the monarch called in another servant and ordered him to bring in a basket-full of thorns. While the second servant was performing his mission the first servant returned. In his basket was a heap of rose blossoms; no thorns, no stems, only blossoms. Where, the king wanted to know, were the stems and thorns to go with those roses. 'Sir,' said the servant, 'You sent me to look for roses.' Then the second servant came back, and in his basket there were only thorns. Where, the king wanted to know, were the roses and stems from which those thorns came. 'Sir,' this servant similarly replied, 'You sent me out for thorns.' " Each of these servants found only that for which he looked. Just so can we find those things for which we look in every day life.

c. We must, then choose our attitudes toward life. They don't just happen.

2. We must choose to be ^{an} ~~our~~ ^{express} ~~our~~ rightful selves, to have desirable influence. Strange as it seems, each person does have several types of self that he can choose to be.

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a. As an acorn is still an acorn whether it falls on fertile ground and grows into a mighty oak or whether it remains intact till it rots, so we are ourselves, no matter how we choose to express ourselves. But to others, we are what we appear to be in our expression, and therefore we can choose to be **any** of various selves.

b. Water gives us examples of the types of selves we might be.

(1) There is swift, fresh mountain water in a stream. It is refreshing and cool. It has pure activity and vitality.

(2) There is the clear, sparkling water of a spring. It is clear and pure, but still. It is good for living things.

(3) There is the water of the ocean. It contains something of all that it contacts. Sea water has some of all known chemicals. It is useful as a source of these chemicals.

(4) There is the water in a swamp. It is idle, stagnant, not particularly active in gathering filth, but harboring it.

(5) There is the water of a roadside puddle. It frequents the places of life, but picks up the filth that comes its way and splashes this filth on many innocent passers-by. This might be said to be the worst self of water.

any interesting examples
at the least + trying to realize the I

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(6) Water can't choose which of its selves it wishes to be. Man has a choice.

c. Man has many selves similar to the selves of water.

(1) There is the parasitic type of man. He tries to get all he can from others, whether by fair or foul means.

(2) There's the cynical and sarcastic man. He is similar to the parasitic type, but he he seems to get particular pleasure out of destroying the desirable qualities of others.

(3) There are those who are happy only when they serve others. These are those who are expressing there better selves, and they are happier than the above-mentioned of these.

- The motive for which we live
II. We must choose what master we will serve.

1. A story of a youth who had to choose.

A homeless child was taken into the home of the ruler of his land, the king, and reared as one of the king's own children. During his youth he was given the best schooling of his day, and all the knowledge of his age was at his disposal. During his years of youth and training this young man had to choose the friends and associates that he liked most to associate with. The king treated him fairly, so that he knew of his own race, which was different

from that of the land in which he was. He chose to mingle with these slave people of his own race, rather than with the lazy youths of the aristocracy. At maturity he was faced with the job of deciding, within himself, whether he would continue to live with his adopted people, or with his own race. He chose the hard way, decided to live the rough, simple life of his people, and resolved to do what he could to improve their lot. Later Moses led the Israelites almost to the land in which they were to establish themselves as a nation. Had not Moses chosen the hard way we might be uncivilized, unChristianized people in the forests of Europe today. Moses chose to serve God as his master, not worldly things.

2. Another young man who had to choose, and whose choice affected the world.

Another young man stood on a mountain side looking off into the distance. First he was offered, the story goes, the best of earthly riches if he would yield to earthly desires. He struggled, then refused these temptations. He looked in another direction and saw huge armies in the distance. He was offered the sovereignty over the world, if he would but do certain things. He refused this temptation. Then he looked in another direction, and there he saw a life of hardship and poverty

with mockery and scorn at the end of that road, with perhaps the shadow of a cross in the distance. Jesus chose to lead a life of service and eventually to die that we might know a better way of life. He was given his own choice, and he chose the hard way, but the divine master. Jesus, a man, chose to serve God, his father.

Conclusion: The most important things of life must be chosen.

This we have demonstrated by showing that the two major choices of life determine our whole way of life. Be careful, therefore, to choose the proper influence; and above all choose to serve the Supreme God as your master.

Preached at

Mountain City

Tappahannock circuit

Morganston Circuit

& Elizabeth Chapel

Dellwood

Maggie 7-11-43

Leitchwick 11-8-43

Independence 11-8-43

Patross 11-27-43

Providence "

Wt. Noreb "

in annual Meth. 6-21-44

Pawliston - 1-18-46

Epworth } -2-17-46

Salem }

Easton
Summer, Md
July 23, 50

Huntington, W. Va., 11/23/47