

引言 Introduction

Life is full of choices. Some results like what you eat and wear may not matter much. Other preferences like what you study, which house you buy and whom you married may steer the course of your life. Some consequences are reversible, others are not. The key is what factors you rely on to make decisions. That reminds me of the movie “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.” In the film, Indiana’s father Henry is looking for the Holy Grail, the cup that is said to be used by Jesus at the Last Supper. The cup is claimed to make people live forever. Remember: this is only a movie! Besides Henry, the Nazis are also looking for the cup. In the closing scenes, the Jones’ team finds a temple on a mountain where the grail is located. But the Nazis arrived before them. There is a fight between the two groups. The leader of the bad guys critically injured Henry, thus forcing Indiana to get the cup in order to save his father’s life. After Indiana cleared the booby traps, two persons from the Nazis’ gang follow him into a room full of cups. They do not know which one is the real Holy Grail. A knight who is responsible for guarding the cup tells them to choose carefully. The two bad guys pick first. They choose a cup made of gold because they reason that a luxurious item is fit for a king. The man scoops up some water and drink it to test it. Unfortunately, he dies from rapid aging instantly. The knight comments: “He chose poorly!” Next, it is Indiana’s turn. He grabs a simple wooden cup based on the fact that Jesus grew up in a poor carpenter’s family. Indiana drinks from it but nothing happens. The knight praises Indiana, saying: “You have chosen wisely.” Later, Indiana pours water over Henry’s wound and heals him. The movie proves a point. Different options may lead to diverse outcomes. In our passage today, Jesus cautions us about making right choices in life. Following Jesus is an unpopular choice that brings unprecedented blessings.

解釋 Explanation

1. 兩條道路 Two Tracks (v. 13-14)

Jesus presents His arguments by using three pairs of contrast. First, He tells us that there are two tracks before us. Let us revisit verses 13-14: 13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” We see comparisons of narrow versus wide, hard versus easy, few versus many and life versus destruction. Whichever track we take will lead to a certain destination. Jesus makes it plain from the get-go that not a lot people will choose Him and be saved. Christians are always the minority. Some people think that the majority is always right. A few centuries ago, everyone believed that the earth is flat. Europeans dared not to sail beyond Spain for fear that they might fall off the earth! Some wise people made careful observations of the sun, moon and stars. They concluded that the world is round in shape based on their calculations. The lesson for us is that we should not reject any new idea that contradicts our existing thinking too soon. We should keep an objective mind and look for proofs. I always encourage gospel friends to ask all the questions they have in mind about faith. They should also read the Bible and understand what it actually says. Superstition is irrational. But it is equally unreasonable not to believe if the facts are

convincing. Christians are few also because it is a difficult path. Jesus told His disciples on other occasions that they would face persecution. Similarly, the non-believing world will call us names: fanatics, narrow-minded, old-fashioned, etc. Critics will find ways to silent us because they do not even want to have a fair debate. The very fact that we face opposition actually proves that we believe in the right thing. Satan will not attack those who are on the wrong track. Do not be surprised if classmates, colleagues, friends and relatives give you a hard time for what you believe. Some non-Christians think they are too smart to accept Jesus. Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 1:21-24 – **21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** The world thinks that the gospel message is silly. The Jews asked for miracles to support that Jesus is God. They still did not believe after seeing Jesus' miracles. Why? They were looking for a Messiah to help them overturn the Romans. But Jesus did not gather the rich and powerful people to plan a revolution. Instead, He got near to the orphans, widows, poor folks and social-outcasts. Therefore, they despised Jesus. As for the Greeks, they crave for wisdom. Physical matters are inferior and wicked in their philosophy. Only the spirit is superior and pure. To them, it was unthinkable that God became a man and contaminated Himself by the sins of the world. Jesus even died in the most gruesome way on a cross. How can such a helpless fellow save the whole world? God in His wisdom uses this dumbest way in people's mind to complete His salvation plan. The result is that no one can boast. People can become believers not because they are smarter, richer or more influential. It is 100% God's grace and mercy. Paul emphasizes in verse 24 people who believe are those that are called by God. It may appear to us that we choose to go to a church, we choose to listen to the gospel and we finally choose to accept Jesus. But in fact God chose us before we even knew Him. That takes away our pride. We can only thank God for His mercy and grace.

2. 兩種果樹 Two Trees (v. 15-20)

Jesus says there are two tracks that lead to contrasting destinations. Second, there are two trees that bear different fruits. Jesus tells us in verses 15-16: **15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”** Prophets in the Bible did not only predict the future. They also conveyed messages from God. Therefore, we can use the title “teachers” to describe them. Jesus cautions us that false teachers are wolves in sheep's skin. They intentionally deceive people. A simple way to identify them is to look at their fruits. You cannot get oranges on an apple tree. Two fruits we should examine are the words and works of teachers. First, what do they teach? Do they explain the Bible based on God's truth or based on their own understanding? Do they teach the whole Bible or do they only pick passages that suit their agenda? Nowadays, many false teachers tell their audience that God loves to bless them with wealth and health. But the Bible also says that we will suffer for following Jesus. How do those teachers explain passages like that? False teachers only tell what their listeners like to hear. Paul puts it this way in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 – **3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.** False teachers meet the appetite of immature students. People of God: What kind of teachers do you

listen to on YouTube? Do they carefully interpret God's Word? What do you expect to learn when you come to the church? Some brothers and sisters say that they hope to discuss some lighter topics. Perhaps they want to know how to become a better employee, spouse or parent. The Bible gives us answers to every issue about life. We must understand what God's Word says first, then derive applications from it. We cannot skip the first step and jump to things like three tricks to communicate with your teenage kids or five ways to conquer your spouse's heart. Besides checking the words of teachers, we should also examine their works. What are the motives behind their actions? Do they sincerely serve God and people out of a pure heart? Do they give glory to God or give credit to themselves? Do they truly care about the spiritual status of people? Unfortunately, many false teachers run their churches like a business. They make their spouses co-leaders and family members board officials. They dress like royalty and they live in mansions. Very likely, false teachers are self-seeking. Satan is very crafty. He will join the church if he cannot beat the church. Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 – **13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.** False teachers may pretend to be apostles of Jesus, but in fact they are messengers of the devil. Their goals are to deceive people and divide the church. People will be misled if they are not careful. Nowadays, identify theft is a serious crime. I became a victim many years ago. One day I received an email from my bank. It asks me to click a link and log into my account. You can guess what happened next. An hour or so later, my credit card company called me and asked me if I had made a few purchases. Fortunately, I did not lose any money at the end. I was deceived by some bad guys who covered up as bank employees. I should have called the bank when I had suspicions. Similarly, when we have doubts about certain teachers' words or works, we need to go back to the source. Does everything they say and do align with the Bible? Humans can make mistakes or they may even lie intentionally. But God's Word does not have error because it comes from the God of truth.

3. 兩派思想 Two Trends (v. 21-23)

Jesus says that there are two tracks that people will choose from. There are also two types of trees that produce different fruits. Thirdly, there are two trends of thoughts that lead to opposite outcomes. Read verse 21 again: **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”** Many who call Jesus as Lord will not go to heaven. They think they are believers but in fact they are not. They look religious and they talk godly. However, the true sign of Christians is not external but internal. The key thing is whether or not they obey the will of the Heavenly Father. Do you say that you love God on your lips only, or do you love God from your heart? The difference is not whether you get 60 or 80 points. The contrast is between 0 and 1. You either love God or you do not. New Christians will keep growing in their relationship with Jesus. But just like a physical life from a baby to an adult, our devotion to God should keep increasing. We can ask ourselves the following questions. Do I love to read God's Word and study it with fellow believers? Am I only satisfied with gaining some Biblical knowledge, or am I eager to apply God's truths in my daily life? God does not look for some weekend Christians, but He calls for everyday followers. Only those who have an eternal relationship with Jesus will eventually go to heaven. Sadly, many so-called believers do not realize that until it is too late. Jesus continues to say in verses 22-23: **22 “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I**

declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” On the judgment day there will be people who sincerely believe that they are saved. They do what most Christians do. They can even perform miracles. But Jesus tells them: “I never knew you!” They never belong to God’s family! What truly matters is not who they say they are or what they do. Some false believers can even possess supernatural power. Jesus warns us upfront in Matthew 24:24 – “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” Besides false prophets we mentioned earlier, there are even false christs keep coming. They are messengers of Satan and they derive supernatural power from him. Remember Satan used to be an archangel. But he led some angels to rebel against God. This is not a sci-fi movie. It is in the Bible. Read for yourself in Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28 and Revelation 12. God gave Satan and other angels certain power. We need to ask where the power comes from when we see miracles. Also, does the power attract audience to the person who possesses it, or does it draw people closer to God? Ultimately, who gets the glory? Of course, God can work in any way that pleases Him. He can use supernatural power to accomplish His will. However, we do not need any miracle to verify that God exists. All that we need to know about Him is in the Bible. We can know God by reading the book. Another solid proof of God’s work is changed lives. The conversion of every Christian is a unique testimony of God’s power. In the past, you might be a self-centered person. Perhaps you loved money and you chased after pleasure and materials. But now you become a God-centered person. You love God and His people. You love to spend time with fellow believers to encourage each other, and to serve in the church together. Moreover, you love to tell others about Jesus. Those are all proofs of a new life. Some people may pretend to be godly for a season. Others may come to church or read the Bible to please others. However, only God can put a new nature in us. When we are changed on the inside, then there will be godly character and conducts on the outside.

結論 CONCLUSION

Following Jesus is an unpopular choice that brings unprecedented blessings. In this passage, Jesus is not comparing between good and better choices. He is contrasting right versus wrong choices. Only the right track leads to heaven. Only the good tree bears fruits that bring life. Only people who follow the right trends are true believers. Many choices in life may look similar on the surface. God gives us the freedom to make decisions. However, only those who receive Jesus can be restored a true relationship with God as His children.

引言 Introduction

人生充滿了選擇。有些事情，例如你吃什麼、穿什麼，可能都無所謂。有些決定，例如你學習的專業、買的房子以及你與誰結婚，都可能會影響你人生的軌跡。有些結果是可以改變的，有些卻無法改變。關鍵是你根據什麼因素來做決定。這讓我想起了電影《聖戰奇兵》的情節。在影片中，印第安納·瓊斯的父親亨利正在尋找聖杯，那是耶穌在最後的晚餐中使用的杯子。據說那個杯子可以使人長生不老。請記住：這只是一部電影！除了亨利之外，納粹黨的人也在尋找那個杯子。在最後的片段中，瓊斯的團隊在某個山上找到收藏聖杯的神殿。但納粹黨的人比他們先到。於是兩邊發生衝突。壞人的首領將亨利弄到重傷，迫使印第安納要去找聖杯，以挽救父親的生命。印第安納清除了機關之後，納粹黨的兩個人跟著他走進了一個裝滿杯子的房間。他們不知道哪一個才是真正的聖杯。一位負責看守聖杯的武士告訴他們要謹慎選擇。兩個壞人先選。他們拿起一個黃金造的杯子，因為他們覺得貴重的器皿適合耶穌的身份。那位男士用杯子裝一些水來喝。可惜，他立即因快速衰老而喪命。武士便說：「他的選擇沒有智慧！」接下來，輪到印第安納了。他拿起一個木頭造的杯子，因為耶穌是在一個貧窮的木匠家庭長大的。印第安納用杯子裝水來喝，但是卻什麼事情都沒發生。武士稱讚印第安納說：「你的選擇很有智慧。」隨後，印第安納用杯子裝水澆在爸爸的傷口上，治好了他。這部電影證明了一點。不同的選擇可能會導致截然不同的結果。在今天的經文中，耶穌提醒我們要在生活中做正確的選擇。跟隨耶穌是一個不受歡迎的選擇，卻會帶來史無前例的祝福。

解釋 Explanation

1. 兩條道路 Two Tracks (v. 13-14)

耶穌用三個對比來表達祂的論點。首先，祂告訴我們，我們面前有兩條道路。讓我們重溫 13-14 節：**13 「你們要進窄門。因為引到滅亡，那門是寬的，路是大的，進去的人也多；14 引到永生，那門是窄的，路是小的，找着的人也少。」**我們看到窄與寬、大與小、人少與人多、永生與滅亡的比較。無論我們走哪一條路，都會到達某個目的地。耶穌一開始就講清楚，不會有很多人會選擇祂並且得救。基督徒永遠是少數民族。有些人認為大多數人的選擇肯定是對的。幾個世紀前，每個人都認為地球是平的。歐洲人不敢坐船越過西班牙，生怕會從地球的邊緣掉下去！但是有一些有智慧的人仔細觀察太陽、月亮和星星。根據他們的計算，他們得出結論：地球是圓形的。我們可以從他們的經驗學習。我們不應該過早拒絕任何與我們現有思維相矛盾的新想法。我們應該保持客觀的心態，尋找證據。我常常鼓勵福音朋友提

出他們心中關於信仰的任何問題。他們也應該看聖經並理解其中的內容。迷信是不合理的。但如果事實令人信服，迷不信也是沒有道理。基督徒很少，也是因為那是一條艱難的路。耶穌在其他場合告訴門徒，他們將面對迫害。同樣，不信神的人也會罵我們，形容我們是宗教狂熱分子、心胸狹隘、思想守舊等等。批評我們的人會想盡辦法不讓我們發言，因為他們甚至不想進行公平的辯論。我們面對的反對聲音事實上證明我們相信的是正確的事情。撒但不會去攻擊那些選擇錯誤道路的人。如果同事和親戚朋友因為你的信仰和你作對，請不要感到驚訝。有些非基督徒認為他們太聰明而無法接受耶穌。保羅在哥林多前書 1:21-24 說：**21 世人憑自己的智慧，既不認識神，神就樂意用人所當作愚拙的道理拯救那些信的人；這就是神的智慧了。22 猶太人是要神蹟，希臘人是求智慧，23 我們卻是傳釘十字架的基督，在猶太人為絆腳石，在外邦人為愚拙；24 但在那蒙召的，無論是猶太人、希臘人，基督總為神的能力，神的智慧。**世人認為福音信息是荒謬的。猶太人要求神蹟來證明耶穌是神。他們看到耶穌所行的神蹟後仍然不相信。為什麼？他們期望彌賽亞來幫助他們推翻羅馬人。但耶穌並沒有聚集有財有勢的人來策劃一場革命。相反，祂靠近孤兒、寡婦、窮人和被社會遺棄的人。因此，他們拒絕耶穌。至於希臘人，他們追求智慧。在他們的哲學中，物質是低下且邪惡的。唯有靈魂是至高無上的、純潔的。對他們來說，神成為人並且被罪玷污難以想像的。耶穌甚至以最可怕的方式死在十字架上。這樣一個無助的傢伙怎麼能拯救全世界呢？神以祂的智慧，用了人心目中最愚蠢的方式來完成祂的拯救計畫。結果是沒人能誇口。人能夠相信不是因為他們比較聰明、富有或有影響力。這百份之百都是神的恩典和憐憫。保羅在第 24 節強調，信的人是蒙神呼召的。在我們看來，似乎是我們選擇去教會，選擇聽福音，最後選擇接受耶穌。但事實上，神在我們認識祂之前就已經揀選了我們。這挪去了我們的驕傲。我們只能感謝神的憐憫和恩典。

2. 兩種果樹 Two Trees (v. 15-20)

耶穌說有兩條路通往截然不同的目的地。其次，有兩種果樹結出不同的果子。耶穌在 15-16 節告訴我們：**15 「你們要防備假先知。他們到你們這裏來，外面披着羊皮，裏面卻是殘暴的狼。16 憑着他們的果子，就可以認出他們來。荊棘上豈能摘葡萄呢？蒺藜裏豈能摘無花果呢？」**聖經中的先知不僅預知未來，他們也傳達來自神的信息。因此，我們可以用「教師」這個稱呼來形容他們。耶穌提醒我們，假教師是披著羊皮的狼。他們故意欺騙人們。辨別他們的一個方法是觀察他們的果實。蘋果樹不可能結出橘子。我們應該注意的果子就是他們的言論和行為。首先，他們教導什麼？他們是根據神的真理還是自己的觀點來解釋聖經？他們是教導整本聖經還是只是選擇配合自己理念的經文？如今，許多假教師告訴他們的聽眾，神樂意賜給他們財富和健康。但是聖經也說我們會因為跟隨耶穌而受苦。那些老師如何解釋那些經文？假教師只講聽眾喜歡聽的道理。保羅在提摩太後書 4:3-4 中這樣說：**3 因為時候要到，人必厭煩純正的道理，耳朵發癢，就隨從自己的情慾增添好些師**

傳，4 並且掩耳不聽真道，偏向荒渺的言語。假教師滿足了不成熟學生的胃口。弟兄姐妹：你在 YouTube 上聽哪些老師的教導？他們是否仔細解釋神的話？當你來到教會時，你希望學到什麼？有些成員表示希望討論一些輕鬆的課題。也許他們想知道如何成為成功的雇員、配偶或父母。聖經提供有關生活中任何問題的答案。但是我們必須先理解聖經的內容，然後從中得出應用。我們不能跳過第一步，直接跳到與青少年小孩溝通的三個技巧或征服配偶的五種方法。除了注意教師的言論之外，我們還要看他們的行為。他們的做事背後的動機是什麼？他們是否懷著單純的心事奉神、事奉人？他們將榮耀歸給神還是將功勞歸給自己？他們真的關心人們的屬靈狀況嗎？可惜，許多假教師像經營生意一樣經營他們的教會。他們讓自己的配偶擔任副總裁，讓家人擔任董事會的成員。他們穿皇袍，住豪宅。假教師多半是為了自己的利益著想。撒但非常狡猾。如果他不能打敗教會，他就滲透教會。保羅在哥林多後書 11:13-14 說：13 那等人是假使徒，行事詭詐，裝作基督使徒的模樣。14 這也不足為怪，因為連撒但也裝作光明的天使。假教師可能冒充是耶穌的使徒，但實際上他們是魔鬼的使者。他們的目的是欺騙人並分裂教會。我們一不小心就會被誤導。如今，身分盜竊是一種嚴重的罪案。多年前我就成為受害者之一。有一天，我收到了一封來自銀行的電子郵件。它要求我點擊連結並登入我的帳戶。你可以猜到接下來發生什麼事。大約一個小時後，我的信用卡公司打電話給我，問我是否買了一些東西。幸好最後我沒有損失任何金錢。我被一些冒充銀行職員的壞人欺騙了。當我有懷疑時我應該打電話給銀行。同樣，當我們對某些老師的言論或行為有懷疑時，我們需要追溯根源。他們所說所做的一切是否符合聖經？人可能會犯錯，甚至可能故意說謊。但神的話語沒有錯誤，因為它來自真理的神。

3. 兩派思想 Two Trends (v. 21-23)

耶穌說，人們可以選擇兩條道路。還有兩種果樹結出不同的果子。第三，有兩派思想導致對比的結果。請再看第 21 節：「凡稱呼我『主啊，主啊』的人不能都進天國；惟獨遵行我天父旨意的人才能進去。」許多稱耶穌為主的人最終上不了天堂。他們以為自己是信徒，但其實他們不是。他們看起來很虔誠，說話也很虔誠。然而，基督徒真正的標誌不是外在的，而是內在的。關鍵在於他們是否遵行天父的旨意。你只是口頭上說愛神，還是你是真心愛神？差別不是在於你拿 60 分還是 80 分。重點是 0 和 1 之間的對比。你要不然愛神，要不然不愛神。剛剛信主的人與耶穌的關係會不斷增長。就像從嬰兒到大人的成長一樣，我們對神的委身也應該不斷增加。我們可以問自己以下問題。我喜歡讀神的話語並與信徒一起學習聖經嗎？我只滿足於得到一些聖經知識，還是渴望將神的真理應用在日常生活中？神不要一些週末的基督徒，祂乃是呼召每天的跟隨者。只有那些與耶穌有永恆關係的人最終才能上天堂。可悲的是，許多所謂的信徒並沒有意識到這一點，直到為時已晚。耶穌在 22-23 節繼續說：22 當那日必有許多人對我說：『主啊，主啊，我們不是奉你的名傳道，奉你的名趕鬼，奉你的名行許多異能嗎？』23 我就明明地告訴他們

說：『我從來不認識你們，你們這些作惡的人，離開我去吧！』」在審判日，會有不少人真誠地以為自己是得救的。他們做大多數基督徒所做的事。他們甚至可以行神蹟。但耶穌告訴他們：「我從來不認識你們！」他們從來就不屬於神的家！最重要的不是他們認為自己是什麼身份或是他們做了些什麼事。有些假信徒甚至擁有超自然力量。耶穌在馬太福音 24:24 中預先警告我們：「因為假基督、假先知將要起來，顯大神蹟、大奇事，倘若能行，連選民也就迷惑了。」除了我們前面提到的假先知之外，甚至還有假基督不斷會出現。他們是撒但的使者，他們從撒但那裡獲得超自然力量。請記住，撒但曾經是一位天使長。但他卻帶領一些天使背叛神。這不是科幻電影的情節。這是聖經的內容。你可以看看以賽亞書第 14 章、以西結書第 28 章和啟示錄第 12 章。神賜給撒但和其他天使一些能力。當我們看到神蹟時，我們需要問那些能力從何而來。此外，那些神蹟會吸引觀眾追隨擁有能力的人，或是會使人更靠近神？誰得到最終的榮耀？當然，神可以用祂喜悅的方式做事。祂可以運用超自然力量來完成祂的旨意。然而，我們不需要任何神蹟來證明神的存在。一切我們需要知道關乎神的事情都記載在聖經裡。我們讀聖經便能認識神。神的作為的另一個證據是生命的改變。每個基督徒的得救都是神大能的見證。在過去，你可能是個自我中心的人。也許你貪愛金錢，追逐物質和享樂。但現在你變成了一個以神為中心的人。你愛神和祂的子民。你喜歡花時間與信徒互相鼓勵，並一起在教會中事奉。此外，你喜歡向別人介紹耶穌。那些都是新生命的標記。有些人也許可以假裝自己的行為，或是為了討好別人來到教會和讀聖經。然而，唯有神才能賜給我們新的性情。當我們內心已經被改變之後，自然就會產生外在的敬虔品格和行為。

結論 CONCLUSION

跟隨耶穌是一個不受歡迎的選擇，卻會帶來史無前例的祝福。在這段經文中，耶穌並不是比較好和更好的選擇。祂乃是對比正確與錯誤的選擇。只有正確的道路才能通往天堂。只有好樹才能結出帶來生命的果子。只有跟隨正確思想的人才是真正的信徒。生活中的許多選擇表面上可能看起來很相似。神給我們做決定的自由。然而，唯有那些接受耶穌的人才能恢復與神的真正關係，成為神的兒女。