

What Is Your Choice?

So much of who we are is beyond our choice: our parents, our ethnic identity, our time in history, even some of our personality traits. We may not have chosen many of these basic building blocks, but we do have lots to say about what we fashion them into. We certainly are influenced by social groups such as family and neighborhood, church community and civic organizations, political party and national citizenship. However, we still retain the power of choice in many of them. It is on these kinds of choices that today's readings focus.

Jeremiah places two sources of guidance before the people—namely, human ingenuity and divine law. Today's first reading is a classic example of wisdom teaching. With all the possibilities available to us, to whom do we listen? Whose direction will we follow? Both Jeremiah and the psalm response answer these questions by describing the good fortune of a particular choice: Blessed is the one who “delights in the law of the LORD.” The outcome of choosing this way is a meaningful and fruitful life. The consequence of the opposite decision is emptiness and barrenness. What is your choice?

At the heart of Jesus' ministry was an invitation to join and spread the reign of God. Acceptance of this invitation could at times exact a dear price. Using metaphoric language, he sketched the blessings and the woes that would follow acceptance or rejection of that invitation. Again, the decision is ours. What is your choice?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * *What influences the decisions you make? Television? Social pressure? Religious tradition?*
- * *How often do you go along with the crowd? Why?*

[Jesus said,] “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”

LUKE 6:24

