

Opportune Moments

We all will make decisions on any given day, but not all carry the same weight. Some are very benign, but some have your future tied to it. Sometimes your birthright is tied to it.

There are opportune moments – good or bad. The right decision catapults you toward destiny that God planned the wrong decision sets you back. Whatever is in the well – comes up in the bucket. Our actions are just belated announcements of our thoughts.

Opportune moments either make you or break you. They can solidify your call or dilute your call. They can build character or weaken your character. Thoughts become choices – choices become habits – habits become character – character becomes destiny.

Opportune moments can give you confidence or steal your confidence. It's a moment the devil awaits. I want to share about 3 moments that will help us today:

1. When Jesus was tempted after He had fasted for 40 days. Jesus overcomes – but it shows that the enemy waits for another opportune time where the decisions you make will give you a future or take it away.
2. Share about Joseph and his decisions.
3. Lastly, share about Joseph's uncle – Esau.

Luke 4:1-14 Jesus is just baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist. Dove descends – God speaks “this is my son”. The temptations came when he was hungry.

They come when you are hungry for: attention, romance, prestige, money, power, influence, popularity. THEN a choice/decision – an opportune moment comes.

Every temptation that he overcame with – “it is written”

- Encourage you to get to know what is written about you
 - Written about your family
 - Written about your health
 - Written about your access to promises of God
- **What is written is your birthright when you are in Christ**
- **If you know what's written you'll have recourse against the enemy on that opportune moment**

Jesus was led being full of the Holy Spirit – but returns in the power of the Spirit. Something happened from being spirit filled – spirit empowered
I believe it's about making the right choice according to what is written. You and I have a birthright to the written promises of God. This birthright is sealed by the blood and the Word of God.

This birthright says – Promise about my family, my marriage, my future, my inheritance. What are you hungry for today? Whatever you develop an appetite for, you will be tested in with a choice/decision.

A person will never really understand true holiness until they've had the opportunity to be truly unholy and made a decision to follow what is written.

It's choosing

- His way over my way
- serving over selfishness
- wisdom over foolishness
- forgiveness over bitterness
- love over lust
- courage over fear
- faith over doubt
- joy over sadness

Your decisions actually determine your eternal destiny.

Let's look at Joseph – early age despised by brothers. They pushed him away / threw him in a pit. We all know the story. They sold him, what a loving family.

Potiphar buys Joseph – he was like a governor of a city. Potiphar must be super busy – his wife has a hunger for romance.

Genesis 39:6-19 Joseph makes the decision to RUN. She was so mad that he rejected her, she frames up a story to get revenge. But God soon will put him in charge in Egypt.

It was an opportune moment – he could have made different choices and tried to justify them in his heart.

My brothers, my family, my bosses' wife, now I'm in prison. I don't think he would have ended up in the palace if he didn't make the right choice.

I believe God would have forgave him. But in order for you to become all you can be – God will put you through those tests. These opportune moments either build character or steal it. Give you integrity or take it away.

The enemy awaits for these opportune moments because that's when we are most vulnerable. Joseph fled – Bible says flee from sin.

Your birthright is attached to Godly choices. Your promises are attached. The enemy wants you to consider the sin. Think about sin. I would have to imagine that Potiphar's marriage was not all it could be.

Mrs. Potiphar made a series of bad choices that I would have to believe caught up with her. Maybe when Joseph became 2nd in command over Egypt. I will come back to Joseph soon. The final opportune time I want to share about is Esau. His father's was Isaac – he married Rebecca. They had 2 sons; Esau and Jacob

Genesis 25:21-34 Esau is all of about 1 minute older than Jacob. Esau was the hunter / Jacob was a good cook. Esau was hunting; thought he was starving and Jacob got him to give up his birthright over bread and stew.

Birthrights means you received a double portion of inheritance. Esau after eating, realized what a bad decision he made at this opportune moment. It changed his life forever. When you let your present appetite hold you hostage and make a decision for you – you can lose a lifetime of blessing.

Hebrews 12:14-17 MSG Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise, you'll never get a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two can ruin a whole garden in no time.

Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You will know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing – but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.

Esau was so bittered by his choice, he wanted to kill his brother. **Genesis 27:36-41** How many of us have forfeited portions of our birthright because we've let our appetites make our decisions.

The only way to get your birthright back is not to have a brother. So Jacob flees to uncle Laban's house. Your birthright is everything God has in store for you. Your birthright is everything God has imagined for you.

It's your future – legacy – testimony. It's the legacy you leave with others including your kids. Those watching your life's choices – will it help them or cause a stumbling block?

Don't let your appetite change your birthright. Listen, some decision has eternity attached to it. In **Luke 22**, Jesus said, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I pleaded in prayer for you that your faith should not fail but be strengthened and build up your brothers." Jesus prays that your faith fail not. Result is those watching get stronger.

Let your appetite be for the promises of God. Get a hunger for something that build up your faith. It's never too late to redeem your birthright. Jesus paid the price.

Jacob is being chased by Esau. He goes to Uncle Laban's house and works 14 years. He marries Rachel and has kids. Jacob's family gets blessed; even the livestock was blessed.

The problem is, Jacob wants to go home, but he has to go through his brother Esau's land. To get to Canaan he will have to go through his brother's property called Edom. But Jacob believes his brother is going to end his life, so Esau can get the birthright back.

Jacob begins moving his family and flock knowing he will be confronted by Esau. He sends hundreds of his flock as a gift to his brother, a peace offering.

He gets to Edom and sees his brother coming down the hills. The problem was he was coming with 400 men. In a panic he separates his family. Servants in front, Leah next, Rachel last so she can get a way when the attack begins.

Esau sees Jacob and makes a B-line straight for him. Esau now has an opportune moment again with his brother. He could have taken revenge but chose to forgive and embrace Jacob.

Esau says who are all these people? Jacob replies "it's family" **Genesis 33:1-5**
In this final group is someone I want to go back to, we spoke about him earlier.

Genesis 30:22-24 Watching all this drama unfold was a young boy named Joseph. Joseph is watching this opportune moment where Esau should be killing his father.

But instead he watches Esau, his uncle, forgive his father. He's old enough to have heard the stories about what happened. He watched an opportune moment. Remember that legacy is tied to your appetite of choices.

Esau – forever knew about giving up birthright. Maybe we remember the moment of forgiveness.

Fast forward 20 years from this point [?] Joseph overcomes the pit, Potiphar's wife and prison. He becomes the 2nd most powerful man in the world.

Famine has hit the region. Joseph is faced with the same opportune moment with his brothers. Joseph forgives and blesses his brothers in his opportune moment.

I have to believe it was because he saw an opportune moment with his dad, Jacob, and his uncle to through a family mess – and sees a legacy of forgiveness.

Is there a Joseph watching you? My prayer is that you will allow God to show you an opportune moment. So when you make the right decisions – there will be a legacy left in your house.

It will transform you from being not only filled but empowered by His Holy Spirit. For me and my house – we shall serve the Lord. Honor the Lord with your choices today.

Thoughts become choices – “As a man thinks so is he”

Choices become habits **Psalm 139:23** – search me O God and clean my heart. Test me and know my thoughts.

Habits become character **Isaiah 26:3** – You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you.

Character becomes destiny **Romans 12:2** – Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect.

CLOSE – IF you we could jump ahead 15-20 years and see the accumulation of your decisions, how differently would we live today?

What are you choosing to pursue with passion? Our future is about the choices and it starts today. **For many people you are the only Bible they will ever read.**