**Choosing to Live Life the Hard Way**

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**Why should we choose to live the hard way?**

**Luke 16:25 (NASB)**   
*"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.*

**What’s in it for me to live the hard way?**

1. **The hard way means stepping out of your comfort zone.**

**Nehemiah 1:3-4 (NASB)**   
*They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire."   
4  When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

***Nehemiah 2:5 (NASB)***  *I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."*

**Galatians 6:9 (NIV)**   
*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will* ***reap a harvest*** *if we do not give up.*

1. **The Hard way means doing the right things not doing things right**

**1 Peter 3:17 (NASB)**   
*For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.*

**Psalm 73:1-28 (NIV)**   
*Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. 3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

*4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.*

*7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. 8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.*

*9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. 10 Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. 11 They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"*

*12 This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth. 13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. 14  All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.*

*15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children. 16 When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me 17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.*

*18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. 19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! 20 As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. 21 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, 22 I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. 23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.*

*24  You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. 28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.*

1. **The hard way means choosing a better future.**

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.* Hebrews 11:24-26 (NASB)

**Example: when you choose to give of your tithes you are storing up treasures in heaven something for your future.**

**When you choose to get up early and do your devotions you are equipping yourself to deal with future trials.**

**When you choose to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and serve Him you are reserving your spot in heaven**