



Really *Andy Stanley*

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:9

Idea: Tell yourself the truth. Ask: "Why am I doing this, really?"

Introduction

Throughout our lives, decisions are forced upon us that we did not sign up for. We are faced with options that represent paths that will take us in very different directions. And we can't have it both ways.

Engaged and your parents and friends sit you down and tell you they don't support your choice: break up or press on? But you are in love.

New school and the group you are most comfortable with embraces a lifestyle that you aren't so comfortable with. But it's them or be alone.

Opportunity to **start a company** or stay with a job that represents more security but less challenge.

Single and there's always HIM/HER. And he/she isn't going to wait forever, but not your dream.

Somebody needs to be confronted. But doing so will probably end the relationship. Easier to say nothing. **Relationship:** pressured for sex or hit the road.

There's a **service opportunity** vs. vacation time. **Job opportunity** requiring a move/school/church. **School choice:** hard/expensive or easy/cheap.

1. When you hear people tell their stories, there are often these types of dilemmas that serve as defining moments . . . the moments that catapult them into something great or something that wastes a season.
2. These are the moments we wish we could go back and relive and decide differently. These are the moments we look back and realize how close we came to making a bad decision.
3. **We never know what hangs in the balance.**
4. We never know when to judge the decision a good or bad one. Sometimes it takes a lifetime to play out. In some cases, generations!
5. What if George Washington had allowed himself to be made king? What if Martin Luther King had chosen to remain silent? What if the men around Adolf Hitler had listened to their consciences rather than a madman?
6. What if Jack Bauer had *chosen not to try to fix* that leaking canister?
7. I want to give you four questions to ask when faced with the surprise decisions of life. A grid.

The first one may be the most difficult . . .

Question #1: Am I being completely honest with myself?