

Choices, choices, choices. We're surrounded by choices all day long. Each of us have more choices to make every day than our ancestors did in their whole lives..

A guy walked by me in Walmart yesterday as I stared at a million choices for item I was thinking of buying. "Too many choices..."he said. He was right. It was almost overwhelming. Which of this one item should I choose? And there where about a million different more items in the store. With just as many choices.

There is a thing known as "choice paralysis." Studies have proven that the more choices we have to make on a daily basis, the more we likely we are to finally give up and say, "Whatever. I don't want anything." Or – "YOU choose."

And yet. I'm drawn to the passage from Joshua: "Choose this day who you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." I'm sure this passage is familiar to many of you—and it seems to be very popular as a plaque to affix to one's wall. I see it all over the place- gift stores certainly, antique markets, religious stores. And yet—I still like it.

Choose this day who you will serve. Sounds easy. We serve God.

But which God?

In a follow up to last week's sermon, there's always the God of busyness. I think we are ALL familiar with that one. It's the God who tells us we just aren't doing enough if we aren't constantly busy. If we aren't busy we are slackers. THAT God.

There's the God of power. Following this one can start benignly enough as wanting more control of your life. Everything seems so chaotic, and you just want a little more control, and when you get a bit more control you really want just a little bit more, and after a while—you don't even notice that you've moved from a quest for more control into a need for power.

And then to make sure you don't lose control, it becomes necessary to make others feel like they don't have as much power. Equality and justice fall away.

There's the God of money. Thinking about money all the time? Thinking of how you'll make more? That you need more? Constantly thinking of ways to manage your money and making it grow? This one almost got ME.

I used to think that if I just won the Powerball, I would be completely content. I could pay off all my debts, I could get a house for my parents, I wouldn't have to worry about lack of healthcare, or pension. Man, if I could ONLY win the lottery, my trouble would be over. I even spent a BIT of time imagining what would happen if I suddenly had 100 million dollars. Serving the God of money. It's tempting.

Here's another God—and I expect pushback on this one—the God of Science.

Now, I agree, science is an amazing thing. Science has taken apart our world to the molecular level, and shown us the vastness of “interstellar space” (Sorry, I never give up an opportunity to razz Eucharistic Prayer C). Science has been a god send. Literally. But for those who put all their faith in Science, who serve Science—well, there are many things that even science can't explain.

Even Stephen Hawking would admit that we have only begun to chart our galaxy. We've only just discovered that there are countless realities and dimensions we know nothing about.

Science is very important. It can teach us and tell us a lot of things about our existence, but it has its limits.

Science, Money, power, busyness. We run perilously close to serving them all.

So many choices.

Love seems to be the only thing in our experience that is there for everyone, has no downside, and *has no limits*.

If we served Jesus, served love, we might find that Science is trying to teach us how we are interconnected to everything. Everything we see, taste and touch—we are literally all One. God permeates everything and everything exists in God.

If we served love, maybe we would **use** the money of the world, not **hoard** it. Money is a currency—same root word as current, as in a stream, and love teaches us to beware of damming up that current, because that causes pools of money, while the rest of the world is arid.

If we served the God of love we might see that seeking power is the opposite of love, and we might see that busyness exists to cheat us out of the one thing all humanity shares: time.

So we are asked this important question by Jesus. “Is my way too hard? Do you wish to go away? “

The Way of Love isn't an easy one. If it were we wouldn't have to spend our whole lives learning how to love *absolutely everyone*. And we wouldn't have to spend our lives coming to grips with the fact that we are *absolutely loved*.

And so we echo Peter's cry: Where else would we go? Only your way—the Way of Love, will open eternity.

Amen.