



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

WILMER MCLEAN'S LIVING ROOM

A Study in Deliberate Choice



The Two Battle Fronts of the Spiritual Man

- Front #1 - Self-Preservation (fighting against God and for the Devil)
- Front #2 - Self-Denial (fighting for God and against the Devil)

And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD . . . So Joshua said to the people, You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him. And they said, We are witnesses! Now therefore, he said, put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel. And the people said to Joshua, The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!

Joshua 24:15, 22-24

Introducing Wilmer McLean

The wholesale grocer from Manassas, Virginia

The Year is 1861

July 21st, 1861 to be exact and the first shots of the Civil War are fired

The First Battle of Bull Run

Wilmer's Had Quite Enough

After all, his dinner was completely destroyed when that cannonball landed in their kitchen fireplace

Wilmer Moves South

190 miles south near a dusty, crossroads community called Appomattox Court House

The Year is now 1865

April 9, 1865 to be exact and General Robert E. Lee is looking for a home in which to meet with General Ulysses S. Grant

Guess Whose Door They Knock On?

That's right - *Wilmer McLean's*

The Surrender Finally Happens

The Letting Go

Once the ceremony was over, members of the Army of the Potomac began taking the tables, chairs, and various other furnishings in the house—essentially, anything that was not tied down—as souvenirs

The war began in my front yard and ended in my front parlor.

Wilmer McLean, 1865

Deliberate Choice

When we choose deliberately to obey Him, then He will tax the remotest star and the last grain of sand to assist us.

Oswald Chambers

My Utmost for His Highest, December 1st

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; **Choosing rather** to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; **Esteeming** the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26

Aparneomai - ä-pär-ne'-o-mī

To deny; to refuse; to disregard; to reject; to forgo

You Must Refuse Something

Will it be Jesus or will it be Self?

Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not **deny** You!" And so said all the disciples . . . And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will **deny** Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:35, 75

But you **denied** the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you.

Acts 3:14

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 9:23-24

The Dying

It's more than just a refusal of riches, it's a very real death

Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 9:24

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27

Are You Like Wilmer McLean?

- Are you offended that the war of the ages has arrived at your front lawn?
- Are you trying to pack your things and move 190 miles to the south - as far away as you can get?
- Are you still resenting that cannonball-spoiled dinner?
- Are you trying to avoid that inner conflict, and not take sides in this battle?

The List

All those things we have told God we would be willing to do for Him

The Question is “What’s Not on that List”?

But maybe should be

Hark! Is that a Knock on the Front Door?

Yielding Up Your Living Room

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Hebrews 11:24-26

It’s Time to Make the Decision

Let the General in. Yield up your Living Room. Turn over your ornate furniture to the One who is deserving. Take a side in this battle.