



Choosing Our Friends Wisely Week 4

Proverbs 12:26 (NLT) “The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.”

It doesn't say avoid people. It doesn't say isolate yourself. It doesn't say only hang out with perfect people.

It says choose **carefully**.

Because the people closest to you will shape the direction of your life.

You can love everyone, but only let the right people shape your future.

****LOVE EVERYONE - BUT ACCESS IS DIFFERENT ****

John 13:34-35 (NLT) “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT) “Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for ‘bad company corrupts good character.’”

Your life will taste like the **influences** you allow in it.

Who's that friend that your thinking of right now?

*Two Things I **Won't** Let My _____ Do...*

1. **Distract** Me From God's Plan

Mathew 16:21-23 “From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.””

Even well-meaning friends can distract you from **God's plan**.

2. Pull Me Back Into Old Sinful Habits

Genesis 39:7-9 (NLT) “And Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. ‘Come and sleep with me,’ she demanded. But Joseph refused. ‘Look,’ he told her, ‘my master trusts me with everything in his entire household... How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.’”

Love people the way **Jesus** loved me.

Don't write people off... You might just be the ONLY Jesus that someone every sees.

But what about when there's conflict?

Matthew 18:15 (NLT) “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.”