

1, 2, 3, ∞ Make New Choices

I. Introduction

A. [Ignatian Discernment]

Awareness

Understanding

Action

B. The first session of the conference was all about “Awareness.”

C. Yesterday, we worked on “Action.” 1, 2, 3, ∞ is our battle plan and we unpacked the first two steps.

1. “Lay it down”

2. “Let it go”

D. Today we’re ready to move on in our action plan to the final step: make new choices.

II. The “Interior Castle”

Acts 17:28

A. Entryways

“The evil one conceals himself, and comes with his very polite friends, knocking at the door, asking permission, but then he moves in ... and, little by little, starts giving the orders” (Pope Francis)

B. What is a stronghold?

1. A place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack.

2. A place where a particular cause or belief is strongly defended or upheld.

3. “A nest of thoughts.”

C. Jesus comes after us.

Luke 15:3-7

John 10:11

Psalm 23: 5

Psalms 50:15 & 32:7

At every key moment in your life, God has been knocking at the door of your heart.

III. “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” (John 8:32)

Jeremiah 17:9

2 Corinthians 4:4

Harriet Tubman, the famous guide on the Underground Railroad is reported to have said, “I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more ... if they only knew that they were slaves.”

Mathew 6:8

Luke 11:12-13

“God reveals what he’s ready to heal.”

IV. You have to cooperate with God’s agenda and put in the work.

What happened?

How did I respond?

What was the result?

A. What was the result? = Bad fruit (Matthew 7:15-20).

B. “What happened?” = Entryway

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C. “How did I respond?”

Going back to those entryways, let’s imagine each door as having not one, but two panels. Open one panel to let God in; open the other panel to let Satan in.

Deuteronomy 30:15

You might not have been able to choose life in the past but you can choose it today as you revisit those doors.

D. Responsibility vs. culpability

Taking responsibility is not the same thing as taking blame.

Renunciation is about exercising free will. Once we understand how we have made space for lies or behaviors that block our freedom, we can own those choices. We can renounce them and choose the opposite.

V. How to identify a lion

Fr. Andrew

Bad Fruit:

How did he feel?

What identity lies did he believe?

What did he decide?

What did he turn to?

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Connie

Bad Fruit:

Entryway:

How did she feel?

What identity lies did she believe?

What did she decide?

What did she turn to?

VI. Once bad choices are clear, how do you make new choices?

A. In prayer

Words are powerful. You will have to follow through on your words and walk the walk, but you start by talking the talk.

B. What is renunciation?

Formally declare one's abandonment of

Refuse to recognize or abide by any longer

Declare that one will no longer engage in or support

Reject and stop using or consuming

At its heart, renunciation is best described by its root: *nuncio*, which means *messenger*; the same root found in the words *announce*, *pronounce*, *denounce*.

Michelle Kazanjian, rev. 5-28-20

C. Declaration

Once we speak out our renunciation, our “no,” we also want to speak out our “yes.”

D. Command

“In the name of Jesus, I take authority over every evil spirit that I have named, [over all the lies and works of the enemy in my life] and I tell them to leave me right now.”

You don't have to say the word of command with any special drama. It is an act of faith. God has given you the dignity of free will. You have authority over your own life, and that authority is joined to the authority of Christ when you are under his rule.

VII. Freedom For

Authority and power are not the same as control. Deliverance doesn't mean getting free of people or situations that cause us pain. It means getting free from the influence of evil in those places of difficulty. That's why we have to do the hard work involved in spiritual battle . . . starting with surrender.

“Whatever God wants”—St. Gianna Molla.

“Prayer of Abandonment” - Charles de Foucauld.

Luke 10:20

VII. Conclusion

“To name our enemies is not a defeat but a victory. To name our enemies is to gain power over them” (Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa)

In every spiritual battle, you are on the winning side!

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