

- c. Such ways make sense, *but what does the Bible say?*  
**Our 2010 offering envelopes contain this profound verse of Scripture:** “One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.” That verse brings us to a **FORK / a Y / a DECISION**.
- i. **Logic** tells us to hold on to what we have – *we might need it*, but God’s Word says that such people will come to poverty.
- ii. **Wisdom** tells us to hold on to our possessions loosely – *giving as God has instructed and sharing with those in need*. Logic says that such people would have less, *yet the Bible says that such people gain “even more...”*

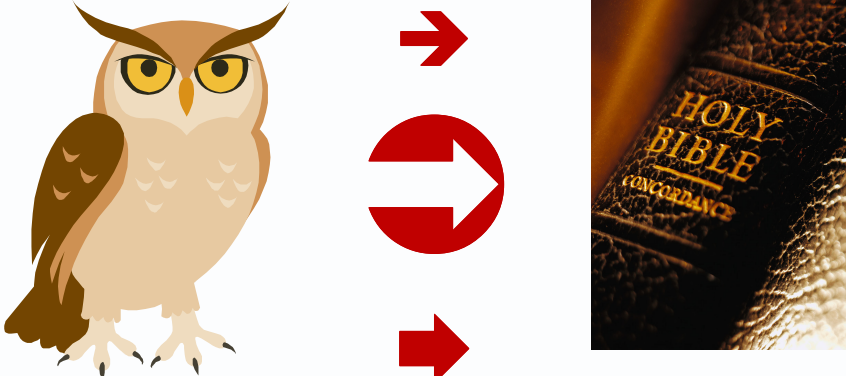
*By the way, I give special thanks to God for all who actually know and do the Word!*

**Conclusion:** The topic of salvation also has two angles: Logic says to work for it, but the Bible says we receive it for FREE – *by grace through faith!* Since life is filled with **FORKS, Y’S, DECISIONS**, let us ✦rejoice in our Savior, ✦be confident in the Bible, and ✦actually do whatever it says! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

**This Week’s Memory Verse:** “One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.” (NIV Proverbs 11:24 – *Our 2010 Offering Envelope Verse*)

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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

**“Wise People DO God’s Word!”**  
 Based on Proverbs 11:24; James 1:22; Luke 5:1-7



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – 2010**  
**Sunday, February 7 → 8:15 & 10:45**

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, you’re on a path which is coming to a **FORK / a Y / a DECISION**. You must go to the left or to the right; the left is the path of logic, while the right is the path of wisdom.

In today’s sermon we are going to come face-to-face with **three examples**. I hope you understand the choices AND, **from your faith in Jesus Christ**, choose the path of wisdom!

1. **Example #1** (Luke 5:1-7 NIV): *What was the situation?*
  - a. Jesus was having difficulty teaching the people, *they were crowding Him*, so He began to teach from a boat just off shore – *with the people on the shore*.
  - b. As Jesus taught, Peter *and probably Andrew* washed their fishing nets. They ✦were professional fishermen, ✦had been fishing all night, and ✦took care of their nets by washing them.

- c. The Bible says: <sup>4</sup> When [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” **That request brought Peter to a FORK / a Y / a DECISION.** *Logically Peter COULD have said: “Jesus, let me tell you why your request is ridiculous: †I am a professional fisherman – you are not, †I know that nighttime is the best time to fish – now it is daytime, †I have already washed the nets – my work is done, and †I am tired – I’ve fished all night!”*
- d. The **path of logic** made perfect sense, *but what did Peter do?* He said to Jesus: <sup>5</sup> “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. **But because you say so, I will let down the nets.**” *Did you catch that?* Even though it made no sense at all, Peter said: I WILL DO IT SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE SAID IT! **That is the path of wisdom!**
- e. Furthermore, *God blesses those who choose the path of wisdom!* The Bible says: <sup>6</sup> ...they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and **they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.**

2. **Example #2** (James 1:22-25 NIV):

- a. When it comes to the Bible, what is logical? †When it is read, it is logical to listen – *don’t daydream.* †When it is preached, it is logical to pay attention – *don’t fall asleep.* **People who do ONLY THOSE THINGS tend to say:** “I’ve done well! I could have thought about the Super Bowl during the readings,

*but I actually listened! I could have slept during the sermon, but I actually paid attention!*

- b. That sounds good, but what does the Bible say? “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**” **That verse brings us to a FORK / a Y / a DECISION.** Are we going to merely listen – *taking the road to the left, OR do in faith – taking the road to the right?*
- c. Listening is ½ and doing is ½; **now, let’s see how going halfway is foolish!** Imagine someone who †picks out his clothes to wear – *but never puts them on* or †dishes up his food – *but never eats it!* Those examples are like listening to the Word – *but not doing it!* **God even gives encourages us to go all the way:** For the person who ✓listens to the Word and ✓DOES IT, the Bible says: <sup>25</sup> “he will be blessed in what he does.”

3. **Example #3** (NIV Proverbs 11:24):

- a. Think for a moment about what you have – *home, car, furniture, clothes, food, savings* – and what you receive to buy such things: *paycheck, unemployment check, social security check, retirement check.*
- b. Since everyone has a limited amount coming in, *it is logical to be careful with how much goes out!* It is also logical to take care of our own stuff first – *pay the house, car, and credit card payments;* then buy *groceries, clothes, and other needs;* finally, if any is left over, *help someone in need or give some to the church.*