

# The Power of Choice

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Think of a situation either current or in the past where you felt like you had no control. Where you were a victim. Bitterness, complaining, heels dug in the ground, passive/aggressive.

Which is your mindset?

## **Responsible:**

Every situation occurs as it does in some measure as a direct outcome of my actions, non-actions, and interpretation. I am of the opinion that there is always something I can do to affect the situation or make a difference in it.

## **Victim:**

Circumstances and events happen to me. I am of the opinion that there is nothing I can do to affect the situation or make a difference in it.

Results of victim mindset: Bitterness, resentment, passive aggressive, complaining, blaming, disengaged.

Results of responsible mindset: Acceptance, support, hope, leadership.

We’ve talked before about this idea – when we talked about mutual submission in marriage. Eph. 5:21. “*Subject*” Where we choose to put ourselves under another.

Do you find yourself bitter? Complaining? Angry? Resentful? You may have a victim mindset.

Do something about it! If you don’t like it, change it! Does someone have a gun to your head? Then you have a choice.

We need to apply this in three areas: marriage, parenting, and discipleship.

Marriage: Don’t complain. Don’t be bitter. Make a difference.

Parenting: Give your children choices.

Discipleship: God will be calling some to decisions, maybe in the next week or weeks. Be ready to say, “Yes. I choose to follow You.” Then gladly accept the outcome of your decision for God.