

Decisions

10-19-2016 by Harry Zirkelbach
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All life changing decisions begin with the thought, I will it. Indicates a choice.
Maybe not.

For in fact coming to a fork in the road, it is possible to take either; or neither;
instead turn around and return by the path taken, or even settle, camp out. Just
wanted to make this point; there can be more than a "Yes" or "No"
choice to any event.

So it came to pass that on a really quiet night, the couple were entertaining one
another when the question was exchanged, "What was the first real decision you
made?". They took turns, carefully. It helped that both were Catholics, for the
Church has held that the age of innocence ends for everyone at a different age;
but ignoring differences in individuals, when twelve years of age, Catholic children
can receive the Confirmation Sacrament. Implied, by the age of twelve, children
are mature enough to decide between right and wrong,
good and evil, virtue and sex.

The first to volunteer mentioned a dramatic life change moment, when as
teenager, the family, without her understanding or consent, moved far away.
Effectively, all life's faces, places, were instantly relegated to the dust pan of history.

Her mind, a clean slate. As a newcomer with new friends,
both with no personal history of the others past.

So with no choice, that decision changed a life forever. And in fact, the young girl
would have no inkling of what that change meant. Acceptance, without question,
made the difference.

The other thought before answering, understanding the complexity of the others
reply.

His moment was solely his choice, somewhat.

He, with his parents' encouragement, chose to attend the local
boys Catholic High School, grade 9 through 12.

The first day was delightful. At least until the Principal asked all to choose between two offered career defining study courses. Each, vaguely outlined, would affect life beyond school years. Simply defined, select between an Academic or Scientific Course of study. Put your name on the offered page, check one box, pass the papers forward. That selection, immediately in effect with the first class.

Most chums from his Grade School were equally baffled at this request. Then one mentioned the Academic included Latin and Greek, was meant for those who thought they might want to be a Catholic Priest.

Some immediately chose the Scientific. This individual was not quite convinced that the Academic was irrelevant.; but on reflection, jumped onto Scientific also. His grasp of English was marginal; the idea of studying a second and third language was abhorrent.

It wasn't until two years later when the Scientific curriculum introduced German and French, that he recalled other languages were not mentioned that early morning two years before.

Still his initial choice was correct. The Academic students never conversed with one another in Latin or Greek. The Scientific students often carried classroom conversations outside, developing ideas that begun from book study.

That forced choice, a good selection.
Discovering that every choice was a step in learning, maturity.

Besides French sounded romantic; German Scientific.
His chosen worlds.
Even when he thought that earlier decision had been forced.