



**Really?
Jeremiah 17:9
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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The Bottom Line: Tell yourself the truth. Ask: “Why am I doing this, really?”

Introduction:

Throughout our lives, decisions are forced upon us that we did not sign up for. We are faced with options that represent paths that will take us in very different directions, and, we can't have it both ways. What do you do when you don't know what to do?

We never know what hangs in the balance.

- What if George Washington had allowed himself to be made king?
- What if Martin Luther King had chosen to remain silent?
- What if the men around Adolf Hitler had listened to their consciences rather than a madman?

Over the course of this series, I will give you four questions to ask when you are faced with decisions in life.

Question #1: Am I being completely honest with myself?

Why am I doing this, really?

When it comes to selling ourselves on the wrong option, we are all great salespeople.

We've all sold ourselves on what we **want** to do to the neglect of what we **ought** to do.

Heightened emotion tends to lead us in the wrong direction, and once this starts, it's so hard to be honest with ourselves.

Most of the time we are on a happiness quest.

So, why are we prone toward *self-deception*? Why do we lie to ourselves?

Jeremiah, an Old Testament prophet, provides some insight

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

There's a difference between **dishonest** and **deceitful**.

You will never graduate from or mature past this. You will always have the propensity to deceive yourself.

Solution: a heart-to-heart talk with yourself.

In a Mirror ~ Alone ~ Out Loud

Telling yourself the truth is liberating.

Telling yourself the truth will bring immediate clarity to the decision-making process.

Telling yourself the truth will empower you to do the right thing.
Telling yourself the truth can be terrifying.

- Once you face the truth, you are accountable to yourself.
- When you spew out your reasons to others, you will know you are lying.

**Am I being completely honest with myself?
Why am I doing this, really?**

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Jeremiah 17:9.**
- Memorize: Questions #1.**
- When Faced with a Decision, Have a Heart-to-Heart.**
- Come Back Next Week for Question #2.**