

# Perspectives of Paradox

**Decisions** (3<sup>rd</sup> in the series inspired by Northumbria Community Prayer Guide 2024-25\*)



***\*“Sometimes we are too quick to act. At other times we can get stuck in contemplation and miss chances to act in ways that would make a difference. May God be our support in the tension between prayerful contemplation and decisive action.”\****

As a couple we fall into two categories: decisive and indecisive. He makes quick decisions and likes to stick to them regardless. Conversely, I have difficulty making decisions and am prone to changing my mind. The difference can be frustrating when it comes to shopping. When it comes to making decisions on more important life events, it can cause us much anxiety. Sometimes our decisions are spot on, sometimes they backfire.

I am one of life’s ‘fence sitters’. Unable to discern what is best, troubled by lack of information, challenged by two sides of any argument, I sit there looking down from my metaphorical ‘fence’ unable to decide. When I do eventually take action, I worry that my ‘good intentions’ were misguided.

It is one of life’s paradoxes – the choices we face and the actions we take. The road to hell, they say, is ‘paved with good intentions’. In the end analysis, every decision we make impacts on someone else and elicits responses which change the course of history. In the end analysis, every judgement we make is in God’s hands; the divine creator can take all our well-placed and misplaced good intentions and weave them into the great and wonderful plan for the Kingdom. Pilate made a difficult judgement with good intentions. Its impact was cosmic. Records in the Orthodox church suggest he later became a Christian.

It's generally a good strategy to include God in the process at the outset.

A prayer I often utter is ‘God, please bless my good intentions!’

***Take my life and let it be –  
ever, only, all for thee.***

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