Why Won't They Believe Me?

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[0:00] We'll draw one thought out of that. In the previous chapter 13, the spies made their report.

Two of them said we can do it. Ten of them said we can't. They all began to cry and want to go back to Egypt.

Let's go to verse 6, 14, 6. Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Bethlehem, which were of them that searched the land, and were too good to fly.

Rent their clothes, and they spake unto all the company of Job, and the biblical saving. The land which we've passed through to search it is an exceeding good land.

The Lord delight in us, and he will bring us into this land and give it to us. The land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye people of the land.

[1:13] For they are bred for us, and the defense has departed from them. The Lord is with us. Fear them not. But all the congregation bad, and stone them with stones.

And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke thee?

How long will this people be there? That means before. How long will it be before they leave me? For all the signs which I have showed among them.

And Moses intercedes as God got mad, and said I will smite them, and disperate them, and make thee, Moses, a great nation of mighty and mighty.

Then go back to, go down to verse 19. Moses said, Pardon, I beseech thee, the indignity of this people, according unto the greatness of thy mercy.

[2:16] And as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now. And the Lord said, I have pardon, according to thy word.

Numbers 14. We are at a place called Kadesh Barnea, on the outstirts of the promised land.

The Lord said for Moses to choose twelve men and send them throughout the land to spy out the land. God was hoping that they would be excited about what they saw.

And eager to go get it. The promised land. He says, land for the new honey. And he wanted them to go and see it, and come back and incite people about going in and taking that land.

Just the opposite happened. The twelve spies came back. Two of them carried one bunch of grapes on a pole between two.

[3:28] Just to show them the produce of that great land. Joshua and Caleb, the two good spies, said, let's go get it.

It's really a land full of milking of it. Just what God said. But two, only, were going in.

And the ten carried the day. As they discouraged the people by saying, well, we saw walled cities there. We saw mountain fortresses.

And we were like grasshoppers in their eyes. We're not able to take it. It's too defended, too strong. No way we can take it.

The people believed the ten instead of the two. Right. And started saying, well, why don't we just kill all these people?

[4:35] Moses and Aaron. Get us a leader and go back to Egypt. It was a pretty tough time. And God said, God came down to the tabernacle.

The cloud showed that he was there. Verse 11 is what he said. How long will his people provoke him? At this point, they provoke him off the heart.

He'd get ready to kill them and Moses wouldn't let him. Moses would get ready to kill them and God would take that. So, back and forth all through these years.

Then this year, about a year, God said, how long will these people provoke him? How long will it be before they believe him? For all the miracles that our children love him.

Why won't they believe him? Why won't they believe him? That's my subject today. Why won't they believe him? Can you hear sadness in God's voice?

[5:45] Why don't they keep provoking him? Why won't they believe him? All I want is something good for them. I brought them out of a place of torture and slavery and bondage.

I brought them to the very door of a wonderful land blowing the milk and nothing. Why won't they believe him? Why do they keep provoking me to anger?

I told you a while back, God in the Old Testament could really get angry. He got angry here. Verse 12 says, I'll smite them with pestilence, disease, and disinherit them.

I'll make of you, Moses, a greater national fighter than me. Moses interceded again and said, Lord, don't do that. People will say about you you weren't able to finish the job.

You're a great and merciful God, you have mercy on them and pardon them. God said, I have pardoned, Lord, but I worry.

One more time, Moses stood in the gap and kept God off the Israelites. Why won't they believe me? I have two topics, two ways to discuss the topic.

Number one, God asked, why won't they believe me? Number two, I asked, why won't you believe me?

Discuss them in that order. God said, why won't they believe me? For all the signs, miracles, that I have shown on them.

Good question. Remember when they were slaves down in Egypt? They cried out to God. He sent a deliverer. They all saw that.

They were recipients of that. They came out of Egypt rich people. For the Egyptians were led by God to give them riches.

[7:56] They had flocks, cattle, sheep, all that they would need when they got them. Golden jewelry, which they made a calf out of.

But they saw God bring them out. And then, they learned, not long after they left Egypt, that Pharaoh changed his mind. had sent his army to recapture them.

They were backed up against the Red Sea and the army of the Pharaoh was coming. They cried out again, oh God, have mercy, they'll come up. And God did.

all night long, the wind blew part of the water. In the morning, they looked and they were the clear path across that sea. They all walked across them dry land.

You know what, I think I would believe. Hard headed as I am, I think I'd have been a believer who'd been on. Walk between those walls and water.

[9:06] Some say the lake might have been about 60 to 100 feet deep at that point. This peak here is probably what, 30 feet?

25? You think about 60 feet, twice as high as that peak and then more. And you're walking along and those two walls of water.

I saw, I saw when I saw Moses leave the, you know, Charles Heston leave the place. Yeah, it was a scary thing, man.

Those walls of water were drifting a little bit, you know. And, I don't recommend you see a movie because when I was a kid, I saw that. Shouldn't have said that yet.

That was right if you want to see. That was what he has. Oh, yeah. That makes me feel a little better. He said, everybody's already seen it. And so, the Egyptians came in behind them, the chariots and soldiers.

[10:15] They got out in the middle of that thing and God let the water fall in on them. And he said, every one of them around, there wasn't a man ready. And, and Egypt, the Israelites saw that great deliverance.

Right. I mean, I, I wouldn't believe at that point. I know I would have. You'd think that would be enough. But, they needed direction.

They're not going toward the Bronx land. They're going east instead of north. I always want to know how to get there. Well, I have a crowd that's going to lead you by day and a pillar of fire by night.

It'll also tell you when the park would keep going. And for all that year, they saw that cloud and that fire and followed them. And I believe I didn't believe that point.

But not these people. So they got out there and ran out of food and they wanted something to eat. God said, all the miracles that I showed them.

[11:23] Are we going to starve out here? At least we had to eat some garlic and onions back in the year. You're going to let us starve out here? Moses said, Lord, what about that?

He said, just get up in the morning, get you a pan, and I'm going to send you some angel food. And the manna fell that night.

It's all over the ground. And when I collected it, the way the Bible is driving, good tasting stuff. I like angels. Yeah, don't you? Anything like that?

Good stuff? And for all that year, every morning they had angel food. But after a while, a couple of months, they said, you know what?

This stuff is good, but I'd like to have some meat. And so, we want flesh deep.

[12:21] Moses said, what about that? God, he said, okay. A big, strong, east wind brewing in a rock of waves. Now, I don't know what it means when you say they were three feet deep on the earth.

I don't think that means they were flying that close to the ground. so he could just knock them down. Or if they stacked up that deep on the ground. But that's a lot of waves.

I like waves. How many of you married them waves? When I was a young fellow, I had a single barrel shot. That's what daddy bought me.

I said, well, when you're going, he cocked it down for a shell and it's got a hammer and it shoots one time and then you've got to throw that shell out to, you know, a single shot.

I was dating a girl and her father was a great quail hunter. He had it all every Saturday.

[13:30] He spent his Saturday in 30 season. quail hunter. One day he said, Larry, would you like quail hunter? I said, well, I've never done it. But yeah, I sure would.

Larry, I ain't doing my single job. You've got to have either a pump or an automatic gun to shoot three. Well, back then, you don't want to shoot three. That's all that you have.

And so, he had his old big gun. must! Okay, okay, let's go. He didn't know that I was crack shot.

And by the way, it was a 20 gauge, too. And we came on and the dogs, you know, they weren't disappointed and we walked up and flushed the quail and a big cubby blew up.

And I said, boom! Cracked it. Boom! Two up. Not two down with a single wear of cotton. He said, I don't can't shoot anything else to you.

[14:45] I don't know about this. I just shooting you. Anyway, he had me look. And I said, sir, you think you'll let me go some more?

He said, I went down to Olive's sporting goods with these huge guns. And I found me a little sweet little 16 that only had to shoot three shots.

It didn't have a plug in. It was just a bird gun. Open more barrels. And I bought that thing from Baba I was ready.

I was willing to man. I went to every chance I could get. I loved it. I know what to have.

I know what God gave me. I love to eat those things. They're good. We were driving through the North Arkansas getting back to St.

[15:46] Goods delivery one time with my folks down the runway.! And a quail flies up out of the ditch right across the front of my car.

And I can tell the way they fly. You can tell the way they are. And I said I just killed the quail. She said how do you know it's working on that?

I know the whale. And I did.

I stopped went back picked that thing up down the road. We had some cups of ice for it or coker for the coke out. Plucked that sucker out of the ice road and cleaned it.

Dropped it down in that cup of ice. When I got home I had me some quail boy and it wasn't even season but I let that thing die.

[16:53] It's a good fridge isn't it? They wanted flesh to eat and he sent the quail out. I don't know anything he could have sent them better. But they weren't even satisfied with that.

They were murmuring and complaining and we're tired of this quail meat. I never got tired. Miracle after miracle their clothes and shoes never wore out.

Now the ladies hated that. For 40 years the women didn't get a new pair of shoes. Terrible.

On the other hand when you ladies like shoes to wear like iron. No. And their clothes didn't wear out. All kinds of miracles.

It's just naming all miracles. In his mind. And that's such a great miracle. It really was. Why won't they believe me? He could ask that verse.

[18:05] Why don't you believe me? You did things this week that God said not to do. And he said if you do it I won't thank you. You didn't believe him.

You wouldn't have to do it. Why don't we believe him? We've got a Bible. He doesn't work for that stuff. And yet we go all against him all the time.

We don't think it's going to happen to us. Get out there and live like the devil and think he's going to treat us like a thing. You're going to get what you deserve. You better be careful.

I don't know why we don't believe him. We've got a Bible. We've got a provision of all our needs. We've got a number of protection over us. Every night before I lay my head on my bill I say dear God I've got three groups that I thank you for every night for protecting!

for the umbrella of protection can you believe how good God is here as long as you stay right with him and sincerely serve him the devil can't touch you look at the provisions made for all of your fatties little pigs you had Mr.

[19:38] Mill home in your life and when I point one finger at you I got three more today we're fat and fat a good depression do us good people turn to God back then when they had to have him we don't have to have him anymore we're not very good Christians these days he provides everything I read a hedge you put a hedge around him I can't!

get to! I thank God every day for the Lord all around life you protected my family with that hedge you protected my church with that hedge thank you God for the hedge protection why didn't they leave you why don't we leave me ask you son would you like for him to remove the hedge what happened in Jones when he removed the hedge the devil got in and look what he!

would you like! that for you but we go on and on and on we don't really believe he's so merciful and kind and gracious and good well we murmur and we fret and we get nervous and we I told you the other day about my nephew Wayne that was hired by Eli Littles company I told this last week I think Some of you weren't here and my nephew was going to sell to doctors so he went for his first day of training he said I've got to learn about all these drugs it's going to be something to learn the whole everything Eli makes I've got to learn about these I sell them went for the first day of training and he said how's going to learn all these you you won't learn all the drugs what you sell it one drug one drug he said what's that

Prozac we sell so much of this stuff that we have sales ones that do nothing else except push Prozac billions of dose of that stuff every year because of so many nervous inhibitions it's a calmer downer for nervousness and that boy made boo kudos of money to sell him one drug that's that's an indication of where America is not only that I read not on go that we sell more riddenly than we do Prozac you know why more kids it's terrible we're just a dope up society well we murmur we get nervous we complain worst of all we don't give God anything we get our little 18 inches of pew we sit there and say bless me if you can we go out and say it was a good servant or bad or whatever and we forget it until the next time we go to church

God have mercy on us God have mercy on us he's too good for us to treat him like we do well they wanted to go back to Egypt you ever give somebody a gift and they turn it down he gave them the wonderful new country and they said no we want the old country hey hey hey he gave them the wonderful new country yeah and they wanted to go back to the world what's wrong with that what's wrong with that God has offered you on a golden ladder the best life that you can possibly live amen if you're born again he's offered you the best life possible in this earth amen you said no I like that I like Egypt better I want some more garlic what's wrong with that yeah

I don't like to be turned down I remember when I lived in Missouri one time I was out of the fields there we ate with that sort of I had to stay on it we had a lot of fields and woods around us I was walking around out there every time it was in wildflower and there's all kind of wild and I thought I think I'll do something policy I'm going to pick her big bouquet of wildflower and I did I had a bunch of grand that just big all colors and I brought it in and she said oh that's very nice she's a little bigger those are pretty those are beautiful I said you got a base yeah you get a base she got a base and put those things I said let's put it right here in the middle of the table yeah that's a good place now

I didn't realize that all to that out in the wildflower every one of them had their own smell loud smell smell I I didn't don't know me first but I watched her when she comes around that table give it a wide burp finally I saw her wiping her eyes and blowing her nose and trying to get by and I thought sweetheart this stuff's going to well you know just a little bit I dumped those things but that lady was so grateful for my thought that she took those things even though she couldn't stand them!

I like people that receive a gift from them don't you these people have to grow the stuff they turn it down sometimes sometimes I've been going to my car and some little kid from the church run up and I got this for you to be a damn man thanks that thing is beautiful look at that yellow color you thought of me you gave me a flower yes sir you think I say well you little dumb kid I quit I'm not taking that that's what they did that's not what you do is well why don't we receive from God the best we have say thank you now Lord I'll give you everything I want to do that number two sometimes

I ask what they give me I've been preaching for 55 years I don't think you show me when I started I preached God judgment because it is Bible now I preach God judgment because I sin yet you don't believe it now when I tell you that God is going to bust your heads you all believe me I'm not much I'm sincere God knows my heart sincere I'm not a great preacher but God takes care of me and God backs me with it and there are several preachers in the ground today because they are you listening to what I'm saying what do you think about the good preacher you better be a preacher go on

I said I know many preachers whose bodies are in the grave early because they attacked this man right here you better be careful I wish people would believe me they don't believe me why won't they believe me I studied this book and preached this book over a half century I watched what happens when people do right and I watched what happened to people do wrong and when I tell you something it's no longer theory with me it's experience and I know what I'm talking about you better take God seriously he's a whole lot more merciful maybe long suffering than he used to be brother the day is going to come the day is going to come and I haven't only seen preachers I seen wildlife and even more of their children when you bring people like their parents and so you care anything about your kids you better be careful you better be real careful

I have this thought several years ago and I have it all the time I wish I could make your decisions for me Chris I wish all the church members would lead a path to my door one after another to pastor here are my choices would you make my choice I wish I could do that I wish I could make your choices some of you in the biggest mess you don't have some of you are getting any more messes because you haven't done enough wisdom to realize that your own is not working I wish you come to my door and say pastor I made a mess of things I made the wrong choices I want you to make the choices for me your life straight enough you'd have a great life you'd have a great marriage you'd have great kids if I could choose for you why won't they believe me I don't know

I don't know I wish I wish I could have chosen for Jimmy Jimmy was in my church in Missouri it seemed like Jimmy had a mission to disobey everything he could his parents ever told him seemed like Jimmy had a mission to try every foul thing he could come wrong Jimmy was about 14 15 and was already on the road to be a criminal his parents came to me reading their hands and said pastor would you talk to Jimmy I said well I certainly will and I had him in an office sitting across my desk I used everything I could think of I told you how they treated young little boys like that in prison his eyes got real I said you will be in prison it's not when it's not if it's when if you stay on the track you're old you'll either be in prison or you'll be dead he said ha

I said don't you sneak in it make it big thing there is a cross there's a there's an intersection down in southern Missouri we passed that thing every time we talked to our and I said this is where Jim went to heaven I don't know who ran the intersection of the stop signs or the drop back whether it was he or the other car but they were back in the middle and little Jim went to heaven oh he was saved hey hey if he hadn't been saved you wouldn't have died Lord go a long way you get yourself saved you better be careful you start dragging his name through the mud and you're a horned again Christian your days are limited now I'm telling you the truth but you're not believing me so you'll go out here and do the same things you've always done

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I wish I could make Jimmy's decision I wish I could make Ken's decision I had two guys that preached to my juniors one of them was a guy that you met uh never Tony you met him he and Ken I won't call all his last names but they were junior church priests that both worked together Ken was a early kind of a guy and had a temper at least I don't know if you knew he had a temper in fact but he could set him off at least I talked to him about it I said Ken you have to get control of your temper man he was called a breach you know he was going to Bible college he was going to be a great preacher this boy went to Bible college I don't think he ever knew I don't know if he ever made somebody somebody did something to him he didn't like and he got mad and began to fight this guy and

Ken just lost him he had him beaten but he wouldn't stop he just kept on pounding on this guy and the people that were there fooled him all finally but he killed the guy with his fists Ken is in prison for life this morning that happened about 30 years ago I wish I could have made this decision this morning he would have gone to Bible college become a preacher right back to the church somewhere if I could have put him in that place to have are you just saying I wish sometimes I could make your choices for you I saw this young lady some months ago when I stopped by there and saw the church I can remember when she was a teenager and she came to me with tears she said pastor I'm going to take you my mother and dad and I feel like I forgot to tell somebody

I'm going to take you by the way I never told you I kept the tongue but she said I am beating up with guilt I am beating up with guilt she's about 15 I said good night Beverly what's wrong with you and she said I had my boyfriend over and we had sex and my mother and dad did I said Beverly come on she said what am I going to do I said well bless your heart this is going to be a plot for you the rest of your life you'll never be against the first you were but you can be forgiven if you get on your knees and ask God have mercy to forgive you promise him that you've learned something he won't have to see that young people he'll forgive you he'll forgive you

I saw her three years ago a mother God does forgive but there's!

there's something in her eyes she's not happy she never got over that she will never get over that although God has forgiven her life I wish I could have made that decision that day when the boyfriend knocked me over I would say I'm sorry my parents are here and you can't come to me but I couldn't make you see she ripped her life there's a block on her conscience that's always I could go on on and on I would never choose for you rebellion and disobedience and disrespect for your parents or other authorities or cheating or lying or laziness or poor school performance I never choose that for you if I could make your choice you young people made some dumb ones haven't already made some dumb ones wouldn't you been better off if you'd have a pastor waiting to do for you see you didn't have a pastor that you make your own now you're going to have to live it's going to be hard not going to be easy what would you choose for me pastor if you can make my decision

I choose respect I choose kindness I choose modesty if I'm choosing for a girl I would choose clothing that was high long and loose and didn't have two legs on if I were choosing for you I would choose ladies garments and not necessarily women somebody was telling about a lesson that they saw somewhere in a ladies meeting or a class or something and the woman had a long sheet of timeline and this person was holding it in Genesis and this other person was holding it over here in 2000 was a long time and the woman teacher said right here about that much of this history of the world women were in

America all the rest of that women were straight and gone until right here you tell me that's right you tell me that's right if I could choose for him there are a lot of bad things you are to have to go to you there a lot of bad well I don't want to let front feet better front feet a lot safer I would choose modesty and the right clothing the right demeanor I would choose obedience and hard work and honesty I know how they turn out I know how disobedience turns out I know how immodesty turns out I don't just do this to hurt you or to make you miserable I'm telling you I know from experience what works and what doesn't

I wish they listened to me brother Steve I wish they listened to me I've got a daughter in this room she played that piano a little girl to the degree I could I made her choices for her when she was growing up there were some things that I said these things you cannot do don't even think about and there are some things you're going to do you're going to get on that bus ride every day of your every weekend of your life you're going to go to Christian school and you're going to make good grades to the degree I could I made three choices for you but there were some choices I couldn't I just had to trust that you believe dad and mom made the right choice yeah and that's the way all of our we go so far with you we have to trust you do it when we're not with you you just make the choice if you want but I'm up here telling you how you're going to turn it out every disobedience received it's just recompense of the

Lord and God said and you think you're as one you think you're as one I wish they believed me but I do it absolutely I wish I could make decisions some of you adults some of you parents men you think your spouse the happiest in the church and in turn she'd make you the happiest man I will make you live for her and her live for you I will take selfishness out of your heart and I make you a happy man if I could make your choices for you you give yourself to your kids unreservedly they didn't know you loved them they didn't know that they were special to you you don't discipline a kid that doesn't know you love them you don't back hard on them you see I've lived most my dad came back to the service from the time I was five until I was ten

I didn't have a dad he's fighting that stuff he's trying to get over it I understand it now you understand that after dad after I was ten dad got right to go started preaching he didn't have much time for me one day he was going fishing with his buddy I was still between eight and ten and the buddy said well is that your boy his name is buddy my dad is buddy is that your boy he said yeah said well let's take him he said no it's alright he's little he can't and the guy looked at me and I don't know how I looked I know I looked disappointed and he looked back at my dad and he said buddy you take that boy away and I can remember this day everything

I sat in the middle of the boat and I dodged the fish plant I wet one every once in a while I don't know I thought anything about it but I had a time of my life I remember about noon we got out we got some canned tuna crackers whatever we found in there and it was the best meal I ever had got back in there and fished till sundown I blissed it all over today that is one or three happiest days for my child to have so then there was another reason a while back I talked to my sister seven years younger and just in talking she said lady I tell you what

I enjoyed my daddy take a fish man we go down there we get it on the boat we spend all the fishing my dad she said that we went over and over the I found me a place to cry not in front of her I said why that's wonderful he learned something I wish I could make your decision dad you how old was he seven sir seven years old you never forget that I make a decision for you you you just come to my door not doing a very good job without the problem that you make my decisions for me

I say sir things are not because I'm so smart but I do it so hard I know what I know what I experience you would take your place as their authority and move over them so your parents leave you make some choices you make excuses for the little kids when you stop them correct them say we don't do that you ought to rule over them the reason you're a 200 pounder and the kids 25 30 pounder is so you rule over them you ought to do that you ought to be this already figure what you say are you are you ought to say it one time they disobey you you get you correct right you you went every heart you say boy that's hard when they get up big enough they'll be a preacher they'll be a judge they'll be all other authorities they'll be

God because they learn to be authority at home but we've always forgotten in America how to kids get what he wants honey do you want some green peas no ma'am okay let me give you some oh how about some no if I made your choices we get a little kids plate we put good nourishing food just a little bit all of it you never say son I want to eat all that whatever you like best you that boy but you gotta eat every bit of what's on your plate that's not hard it's pretty hard you're not good you're letting children make their own decisions I wish I could make them for you I don't need to be mean this morning I'm just telling you I'm old I you raise raise your kids like you want to raise yours and

I raise mine and you never bring it up to my church guess what I never wrote anything he lost his kid duh!

I could have helped that guy but he wouldn't let me you remember the lady I hadn't told this a long time some of you remember not getting out and I had told this a long time but we had a bus meeting one morning and I was out of sorts I don't want to that but we have our bus cook just chatter chatter chatter and she just talked she talked you know and I tired of I hear!

I just speak! I don't know why I did I used to talk and there was a rag and Wanda Miller turned her back I said I called her name she turned her back and I picked up that rag and whacked and I hit her and it was sort of wet you know and she stung and she looked at the rag and she looked back and I said I said I said I thought I I thought man I just!

I would been a preacher she looked at me and she said nice shot pastor wow you could have been a baseball pitcher she forgot it and I went to her later and asked her to get it come home wish I could have made her decision before she had sweet little kids I remember going in the house those little boys dressed in a tie look like little soldiers and they said pastor sweet kids little sweet kids grow up and they ain't little sweet kids anymore they little sour monsters if you don't get a hold of one of the sweet kids you won't be able to handle them their sour mom that little boy that saluted me they wrote me sweet notes and couldn't see he loved his preaching he got wrong that was wrong crowd because of those decisions they lost their kids and one day when he was in his early twenties he was in a boat in a lake drunk fell out of the boat and they dragged the body off several hours that young boy that loved his preaching when he was going to sleep water gave up his life because somebody didn't make the right decisions you see what

I'm saying I could talk I could talk in morning and give you story after story if I could make the choices of life what would you do pastor well I can give you an example for your kids they can watch you see how to live they can follow their dad or their mom and go the right direction you don't always think about them before you smoked or drank or cursed or criticized or missed church or watched feel from that one item of you don't always think about them before you did those things and I said sadly!

I said sadly many times look at this I said this sadly I can count on one hand those five people the number of people that took my teaching seriously and raised kids for God we had a young guy come through here missionary going to Iraq named Steven Trevor when Steven drove a year old you think you three men okay maybe you got three in the church his dad had a week meeting he said pastor you going to teach me how to raise this boy and we went over everything I knew about child period he went on that boy came to this church and he stayed in my home and he said pastor start he said

I left your church when I was a little big boy but I know you better than the preacher because I heard your name my dad would do something and say son pastor start said this the word that boy sat in my house with tears he said I don't know how to thank you I don't know how to thank you but he said I am what I am today because I wish I could make your decision let's stand it