

Challenge: Decision Making

A group of children were playing near two railway tracks, one still in use while the other disused. Only one child played on the disused track, the rest on the operational track.

A train is approaching and you are just beside the track interchange. You can make the train change its course to the disused track and save most of the kids. However, that would also mean the lone child playing by the disused track would be sacrificed. Or would you rather let the train go its way?

Let's take a pause to think what kind of decision we could make...

Most people might choose to divert the course of the train, and sacrifice only one child. You might think the same way, I guess. Exactly, I thought the same way initially because to save most of the children at the expense of only one child was a rational decision most people would make, morally and emotionally. But, have you ever thought that the child choosing to play on the disused track had in fact made the right decision to play at a safe place?

Nevertheless, he had to be sacrificed because of his ignorant friends who chose to play where the danger was.

This kind of dilemma happens around us everyday. In the office, community, in politics and especially in a democratic society, the minority is often sacrificed for the interest of the majority, no matter how foolish or ignorant the majority are, and how farsighted and knowledgeable the minority are. The child who chose not to play with the rest on the operational track was sidelined. And if he was sacrificed, no one would shed a tear for him.

To help us make good decisions, there are some questions we can ask.

Ask yourself the question "What would a wise person do now?". A wise person can be described as someone who acts with common sense and love and in the in best interests of all.

Another question is "What is the intent, the motive?". If the motive is love for all and we have love in our hearts we help others with compassion. If the motive is to please the senses or if we are reacting to something or somebody without any reason, the action will be distorted from the beginning.

Finally ask yourself, "How do I feel after doing something". If I feel light and bright, I have made the right decision and done my duty. If I feel possessed, agitated and captured then it is a sure sign I have made the wrong decision and not done my duty.

So this week, to help us in making decisions:

Ask yourself the question "What would a wise person do now? "