

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - March 31, 2022

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Title: "When You Need to Make a Decision" - Part II

Subtitle: "The Deciding Factor"

Scripture Reference: Jeremiah 29:11-13

I. Introduction

A. We discussed five guidelines that we need to consider when making a decision in our last Bible Study session. Those guidelines are:

1. **Guideline #1** - Consult God's Word (Always)
2. **Guideline #2** - Pray for God's Wisdom
3. **Guideline #3** - Gain Insight Through Wise Counsel
4. **Guideline #4** - God Will Speak to Your Heart
5. **Guideline #5** - Gather All of The Facts About the Decision

B. My prayer is that you will review this material and let it sink deeply into your hearts. By doing so, I am confident that the Lord will do exactly as He has promised in His Word - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5,6)

C. We will now prayerfully continue our study.

II. Guideline #6 - Be Sensitive to God's Timing

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time." (Eccl. 3:11a)

A. God has a plan, but He also has a timing. In making decisions, there are two reasons why people miss God's timing:

1. Some people decide too quickly.

2. Others wait too long.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee."(Psalm 32:8,9).

B. Because the horse runs ahead, the bit and bridle is used to slow him down.

C. The mule on the other hand, is so stubborn that the bit and bridle is used to pull him. The person who runs ahead of God can be compared to the horse, while the person who delays in making a decision is like a mule. Both will miss God's timing.

D. Esau was like the horse because he decided too quickly to sell his birthright. If he had waited two days in making the decision, he would not have done it.

E. Felix the governor, on the other hand, was like the mule because he took too long to decide. Paul told him about Jesus, but Felix became frightened and responded, "... Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season (time), I will call for thee." Felix left Paul imprisoned for two more years (Acts 24:25b-27).

III. Guideline #7 - Begin to Make Plans in the Direction You are Being Led.

"A man's heart deviseth (plans) his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

A. Perhaps you may have read the story about *Alice in*

Wonderland. If so, do you recall the part where Alice is talking to the Cheshire cat perched in a tree? Alice is confused about her direction. So, she asks the cat, "Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a great deal on where you want to go," replies the Cheshire cat.

"I don't much care where," says Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go."

B. If we don't care which way we go, then we don't need to make any plans. But God's Word says that it does matter, and we are to plan.

C. Notice the two elements mentioned in Proverbs 16:9 - Our part and God's part. Our responsibility is to make the plans. God's responsibility is to direct our steps.

D. How do we begin to make plans? - "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." (**Proverbs 16:3**)

E. If we put our works in God's hands, He will lead us in making our plans. But we shouldn't plan until after we have gathered all of the information concerning the decision and have received the green light. Consider the following:

- Plans give you direction.

F. When we plan the way, the Lord will direct our steps. He gives our plans direction. Example:

1. A powerful railroad train has the ability to carry a lot of cargo and people, but it cannot do anything without the railroad tracks.

- Plans keep you from getting diverted.

G. A college has planned the courses you need to complete in four years in order to receive your degree to become a Civil Engineer. Once you have passed all of the courses, you have reached your goal of becoming a Civil Engineer.

H. But what if the college hadn't told you which courses they required for the degree? You would have wandered aimlessly through, trying to guess which were the correct courses. You could spend your whole life in college and never graduate!

I. Imagine going on a cruise to an island. After you have been out

on the ocean for a week, you say to the captain, "It sure seems like we should have arrived by now. When do we plan to arrive?"

The captain answers, "Plans? I don't make plans. I just trust God to guide the boat through the wind and waves to the right destination."

J. That sounds ridiculous, but many people drift through life in the same way. They make no plans; yet believe they will reach their destination on time.

Point: If we fail to plan, we plan to fail.

K. Making plans will cause us to act rather than react. Without plans, we will bounce around like a ball in a pinball machine. If we travel through life in this manner, we will never reach our destination.

IV. Guideline #8 - Walk in the light you have.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
(Psalm 119:105).

A. When God directs us, He will shine light on the right path. Sometimes the light is bright, but at other times it is dim. We must walk in the light we have, even if it is only a flicker. We may have only enough to take one step, but if we will take that step, God will give us enough light to take the next one. Do you recall what the Word of God tells us? - "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7)

B. The Word of God also says to us - "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalm 32:8)

C. If we walk in the light we have, God will instruct us step-by-step down the road.

V. Guideline #9 - God may lead without you knowing it.

A. Sometimes we get the idea that God can't lead people without them knowing they are being led. But a careful examination of the Scriptures reveals this is not the case. The following people were led by God without them recognizing that God was doing it:

- Abraham's servant was led to Rebekah (Gen. 24:1-24)
- Saul was looking for lost donkeys and found Samuel (1 Samuel 9:3-20).
- Abraham didn't know where he was going, but God led him to the promised land (Heb. 11:8)
- The four lepers were led to the enemy's camp (2 Kings 7:4-8).
- The Ethiopian eunuch was led to a desert road to meet Philip (Acts 8:26-39).

Comment: Here is something very important to remember: Many times God, through His sovereignty, will lead us to places and we will not be aware that He is leading us.

B. If God can lead people who are not seeking Him (like Saul), then certainly He will lead His own children who are seeking Him! We must learn to rest in His sovereignty. Our God is the Great Creator, and He is in control and ruling the universe. Our responsibility is to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33), and he will take care of the rest!

Can I get an Amen???

VI. Guideline #10 - Make your decision and don't look back.

"And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"
(Luke 8:62)

A. Provided you have complied with the Word of God, once you start walking in the direction of the decision you have made, it is important that you not look back. We must examine all avenues

before we make the decision. We have to do our questioning ***before*** we decide. But once you decide, keep moving forward.

B. Don't continue to question yourself as to whether or not you have made the correct decision. Instead pray, "Lord, I believe that you are leading me in this decision, and I am trusting you to direct me every step of the way."

C. When Israel was set free from Egyptian bondage, they were glad to be set free from slavery. They exchanged bondage in Egypt for freedom in the wilderness. But when things got rough, some wanted to go back to Egyptian bondage.

D. They had left a part of their hearts in Egypt, and that part was pulling them to return when things became uncomfortable.

E. If God leads you to make a decision, don't focus on your previous situation. Looking back and doubting yourself will only cause problems. Spend your time looking forward to the good things that God has planned for you.

Deciding to Decide

- What decisions have you been putting off that you need to make?
- When making major decisions, follow the principles outlined in this study.
- Close the back door of your mind on past decisions.
- Trust The Lord Every Step of the Way!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. Each passage has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"I _____ toward the _____ for the _____ of the high calling of God in _____."

[Philippians 3:14]

"_____ me thy _____, O Lord, and _____ me in a _____, because of mine enemies."

[Psalm 27:11]

"The Lord is my _____ and my _____; my heart _____ in him, and I am _____: therefore my heart greatly _____; and with my _____ will I _____ him."

[Psalm 28:7]

"O _____ and see that the Lord is _____: _____ is the man that _____ in him."

[Psalm 34:8]

"_____ is before him that hath _____: but the eyes of a _____ are in the ends of the _____."

[Proverbs 17:24]

"By _____ and the _____ of the Lord are riches, and _____, and life."

[Proverbs 22:4]

"Through _____ is a home builded; and by _____ it is _____."

[Proverbs 24:3]

"_____ unto me, and I will _____ thee, and _____ thee great and mighty things, which thou _____ not."

[Jeremiah 33:3]

"I will _____ thee and _____ thee in the _____ which thou shalt go: I will _____ thee with mine _____."

[Psalm 32:8]

I do pray that this study session has been a blessing to you and thank you for being a part. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin