

Making Godly Decisions

Objective

To learn how to make godly decisions

References

Holy Scripture

Scriptural Verse

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:6)

Lecture Outlines

How to Make Right Decisions

1) Understand that it is Important to Make the Right Decision

Making right decisions is one of the most important things that we must learn how to do, especially as young people where the decisions we make can affect the rest of our lives. Just think about how much a decision you made in the past affected your current situation. How just a slightly different choice would have created significantly different results?

An example of someone who made a right decision is Abraham:

Genesis 12:1-4

Abraham's decision affected the entire world, long after his death. Through Abraham's obedience God made him the father of the nation of Israel.

Abraham also made some bad decisions. He and his wife Sarah were getting old and she was barren. How could Abraham be the father of a nation unless he had some offspring? God promised him a son, but Abraham and Sarah lost faith and decided to try and get a son through Hagar, their slave.

Genesis 16:1-4

Hagar's son was named Ishmael and when he was born, Abraham believed that this was the heir God promised him and when he was 13, he was circumcised. Then what happened.

Genesis 17:15-21

After those 13 years, however, God told Abraham that we would have a son through Sarah and his name would be Isaac. Once Isaac was born, Abraham realized that he was the heir that God promised and not Ishmael. God had a better plan than what Abraham and tried to get on his own.

Genesis 21:8-13

So Hagar and Ishmael were cast out of the family but God promised to make Ishmael into a great nation. That as it turns out...one of the descendants of Ishmael was Muhammed! So see when

Abraham was impatient and did not trust in God, he made a bad decision that is affecting us even today, thousands of years later.

2) Understand that we are Inadequate to Make the Right Decision

One way to make decisions is to gather all the information you need, get other people's advice, and just think about it a lot and try and make a logical choice. There is nothing wrong with this strategy but it is not enough.

No matter how much we think about something and no matter how much one path might look right to us, we cannot foresee what will happen and make the decision on our own.

Jeremiah 10:23

3) Realize that God will show us what decision he wants us to make

Psalms 32:8

We have such limited vision but God sees our whole life from beginning to end and promises to teach us the way we should go.

Luke 11:9-13

God promises us that if we seek Him out and ask for wisdom and enlightenment, we will receive it. He will give us the Holy Spirit to guide us and show us the path to follow.

Romans 11:33-36

4) When we seek Him out, He answers, so we must learn to listen

1 Samuel 3:9

We have asked Him to speak, now we must just listen. There are really 2 points here. First, we must believe He will answer and then we must be able to decipher what the answer is.

- a) God will answer

John 16:13

Isaiah 58:11

- b) We must listen

Listening is one of the most important and often times most frustrating part about making decisions. Because it requires patience and waiting, times where we feel nothing is happening and we can start to worry. We feel the time is drawing near where we must make the decision, especially if it is something that we have to decide relatively soon, and we still don't know what to do, what choice to make. But we need to have faith and remain confident that God will respond, He will not forget us or forsake us. He is our loving Father.

God can speak to us through many different ways. One way is through the Bible.

Psalm 119:105

Joshua 1:8

If we live our lives according to God's word, day and night and seek Him out, we will be very tuned to hear God's voice directing us.

God can also speak to us through other people. That is why it is always good to talk to wise people about your problem. Wise Christians will help you to focus on God's plan for your life.

Proverbs 19:20

God can also speak through circumstances. Sometimes God will close up all options but one, and you will know that that is the way He wants you to go. God will do amazing things to get your attention if we are just receptive to His voice and listen. Sometimes we will see all these coincidences happening around us in a strange way, although they're not really coincidences at all, they are God trying to tell us something.

No matter how He does it, He will speak and the more closer we are to Him, the clearer it will sound.

Isaiah 30:21

So, how do we know if we have heard from God? People ask about signs. Will God give us a sign that something is going to happen? Nothing is impossible for God.

Gideon was a man who had to listen to God and obey. The Israelites were disobeying God so He turned them over to the Midianites for 7 years. They lived in dens and caves, and were oppressed by the Midianites, until the time God chose to rescue them. So the Lord spoke to Gideon and told him that he would save Israel.

Judges 6:16

But Gideon wasn't too convinced at first.

Judges 6:17-22

Now he knew God was speaking to him, but he still was not too convinced about the message itself.

Judges 6:36-40

God gave Gideon many signs that it was in fact God speaking. Today, however, we have the Holy Spirit that speaks to us. And therefore, we are asked to have faith through the Spirit that God will answer.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

God gives us the wisdom we need to make the right choices. The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God, and when we have the Holy Spirit we have God's wisdom and guidance at our fingertips to make right decisions.

5) Once God answers, we must carry out what He said

Judges 7:2-21

It took great courage to approach an army that was "as the sand by the seashore in multitude" with only 300 men, but that is what God said do, and it had nothing to do with them, they just needed enough people to play the trumpets and nothing else. The dream that God gave the Midianites is what made them afraid and drove them away.

If we listen to God regardless of what He tells us, we will ALWAYS win, even if things don't seem to be going our way. No exceptions.

6) Once the decision is made we should have no regrets regardless of the outcome

Finally, the best part of making a good decision is what happens afterward. The outcome is what is best for us, even if we don't expect it, even if it is painful, we should not have any regrets.

Now what if you made a mistake. What if you made a bad choice because you didn't ask God or because you didn't hear God answer you and were impatient and acted on your own. What then, are you doomed to a wrong path for the rest of your life? Certainly not!

If we realize that we've made a mistake, we should re-commit ourselves to God and let him re-work our circumstances and get us back on the right track again. God does this everyday; it is not hard for Him.

Jonah disobeyed God, but God was able to bring him back along the path He chose for him. If "we desire, out of our free will," to come back, God will help us.

Conclusion

All it takes to make right decisions, or do anything for that matter, is a desire for God and his will for your life. If we desire God and we delight ourselves in Him, He will guide us. He will give us the desires of our heart. God is not stingy with His blessings, He gives to all in abundance. God wants us to have a wonderful life where we have a close relationship with Him and He wants to use us to bring other people to Him.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. What do you do when all the options you are faced with seem wrong or inadequate?
2. How can we fix a bad decision that we have made?