

May 24, 2023 – Making Decisions -P5

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday 24 May 2023 – Spring Semester

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### **Making Decisions According to God’s**

#### **Direction for Your Life**

**Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)**

“In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

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#### **5. Expect Complications**

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.

In the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer,  
I have overcome the world.”

**John 16:33**

**Week 1:** The Power of Prayer

**Week 2:** What are the Facts?

Week 3: If you don’t know ask Somebody—(godly counsel)

**Week 4: Count the Cost**

**Week 5: Expect Complications**

**Week 6:** Facing the Giant of Fear

Problems are inevitable: We can’t ignore problems because problems are part of God’s plan for our lives. Therefore, we have to prepare our minds and attitude for them.

**Q = How can a person of faith mentally and emotionally prepare themselves to face challenges?**

- Expect God to answer your prayers, assist you in gathering the facts, guide you to the right counsel, and empower you to use your human as well as outside resources to make your decision

- Expect every decision, idea, or vision to come with problems.

**Q = Does this mean I shouldn't do it?**

**Q = Does this mean it didn't come from the Lord?**

- No! It means we need to be aware and prepared because we're functioning in an imperfect and sinful world.

**John 16:33**

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- In the process of preparation, expect the best, but prepare for the worst
- A wise person knows there will be problems with every decision but he/she prepares for them

**Proverbs 27:12**

"A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."

**There is a big difference between preparing for a problem and solving a problem. Never confuse decision-making with problem-solving**

- If you have to solve all the problems before you make a decision, then you'll never get anywhere.
- When you give the decision to the Lord, you prepare for the problem, God does not expect you to solve them ahead of time

**For example:**

*When President Kennedy announced in 1961 that the United States would land a man on the moon by the end of the decade, the technology needed to get there didn't exist. In fact, some of it had not even been thought of.*

*NASA calculated the risk and prepared for the problems, but they didn't solve all the problems before the decision was made. Later, when they started, problems were being solved.*

Perfect conditions never exist without problems

- People who try to solve problems before the decision is made are perfectionists
  - Perfectionism is the enemy of progress
  - A perfectionist incorporates his/her own standard or philosophy and rejects anything less
  - If we view problems from a perfectionist mindset, we'll never get anything done.

### **Mark 2:1-12, The Problem:**

1 When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home.

2 Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them,

3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 4 They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

5 Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

6 But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves,

7 "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

8 Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts?"

9 Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'?

10 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said,

11 "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

12 And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!”

**Q = What was the problem—the paralyzed man, the building, or getting to Jesus?**

- If we wait for perfect conditions before making a decision, we’ll never get anywhere

### **Luke 5:1-11 “Several Problems Existed”**

1 One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2 He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

5 “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

8 When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

**Q = What was the problem?**

**Q = How were the problems solved?**

### **Our Attitude towards problems:**

**1 Peter 4:12**

“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.”

### **Romans 5:3-4**

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

### **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

17 For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

18 So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

### **James 1:2-4**

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.