



Jesus Listens & Obeys

March 03, 2024

When you have a big decision to make, how do you go about making it? How did Jesus go about making decisions?

John 5:19 “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He see the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear; I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing. Jesus knew how to hear His Father’s voice and do what His Father wanted done. **And just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us.**

Our ministry is supposed to flow out of our relationship and communication with Jesus.

So, how do we do that? Well, before we get into how we can hear the voice of the Lord, let’s see some foundational steps that lead up to that. A foundation that Jesus had.

1. The first step is what does the Bible say about it. God’s way revealed in His Word is always the best path for us to take. ***Ps 119:105*** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. (Or smooth...)*

Prov 22:5 *Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards himself will be far from them.*

2. The Second step in decision making is to consider which decision most glorifies Christ.

Jesus Christ only did what glorified the Father. ***John 17:4*** “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.”

And we are to live in such a way that glorifies Jesus Christ.

Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

We exist by Christ and for Christ. We exist to glorify Christ.

So, when we are trying to make a decision, we ought to ask ourselves “which decision best glorifies Christ.”

3. God is wise, and those who make Godly decisions will make wise decisions.

How do you do that?

We should first ask God for wisdom (*James 1:5-8*).

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubt, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Secondly, we should seek wise counsel from mature believers, those whose minds are saturated by the scriptures.

Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in the abundance of counselors there is victory. (11:14) Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed. (15:22)

If you are convinced that God is leading you to do something, and other mature and godly people think you are making a mistake, you should stop and reconsider what it is you are about to do.

Job 31:1 I have made a covenant with my eyes: how then could I gaze at a virgin.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Let me say something else about making wise decisions. If you are going to make a wise decision, you will need to have all the facts. ***Proverbs 18:17 The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him.*** Make sure you have all the facts before making a good and wise decision.

Make Sure that you are not rushing your decision. ***Proverbs 19:2 Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who hurries his footsteps errs. Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.***

4. The fourth step in making any decision is to ask “What would Love do?”

Remember, ***love never fails (1 Cor 13:8),***

5. The fifth step is to consider how God’s divine providence and sovereignty is impacting your decision.

God is still in the business of opening and shutting doors. He is still arranging and disposing of the events and circumstances of our lives.

Rev 3:7 (Jesus), who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens...

Prov 19:21 Many plans are in a man’s heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand.

6. The Sixth step in decision making is listening to God’s voice through direct and personal guidance of the Holy Spirit (*Rom 8:14; Ps 32:8*).

That is what we are going to talk about next week.

