

Acts 21:1-16
Sermon Notes
September 30, 2018

When making decisions:

1. Your focus should be vertical rather than horizontal

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Galatians 1:10 ESV

10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Titus 3:5 ESV

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

What matters is God's will for us, not what others think we should do.

When making decisions:

2. Trust in the wisdom of God

Just because we don't see any point in suffering doesn't prove there is no point.

Randy Alcorn

Proverbs 3:5-12 NLT

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. 8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. 11 My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. 12 For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

Learning to trust God's wisdom:

1. Don't depend on you (v. 5)
2. Cry out to God (v. 6)
3. Run from evil (vv. 7-8)
4. Put God first in your life (vv. 9-10)
5. Check yourself by God's word (v. 11)
6. Rest in God's love (v. 12)

Questions to consider:

Is "wisdom" killing my trust in God?

or

Does my trust disregard all wisdom?

Romans 11:33 ESV

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Romans 11:36 ESV

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

When making decisions:

3. Don't bend God's will to conform to your preferences

We can't imagine that trials and difficulties could ever be the Lord's will for people we love. Success, ease, and peace without conflict have become the false signs of the Spirit's blessing.

2 Corinthians 11:24-27 ESV

24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 ESV

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

God plants His saints in the most useless places. We say, "I should be here because I am so useful." Jesus never estimated His life by the standard of greatest use. God puts His people where they will glorify Him, and we are not capable of judging where that is.

Love God and do whatever you please; for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the One who is Beloved.

Augustine