

October 05 2008 – SERMON SUMMARY

What are some of the best decisions you've ever made? Can you remember some of the worst decisions you've ever made? What decisions are you making in your life right now? All of life is full of decisions. How can we consistently make wise decisions?

In Ezekiel 14 we see the elders of Israel coming to the prophet Ezekiel to know God's will concerning certain issues. The only problem was that they were not following God with their lives. God's response was to speak against the idols of their hearts and the stumbling blocks in their lives. God refused to answer their questions. Instead He chose to speak about the sinfulness in their hearts. Only when they repented of their sin would they be ready to receive God's will for their lives.

This same principle is true in our lives. When we are in need of God's will in our lives our first responsibility is to draw near to God. As we walk close to God we are assured of hearing God's will. If we selfishly only seek God's will it is possible that we miss both God and His will.

I recently went on a hike with a group of men from the church. The weather was foggy and I had never been in these mountains before. I didn't have a map, but it did not matter because I was with friends who knew the way. My only responsibility was to stay close to them. In John 14:6 Jesus says the same thing. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." In our lives our greatest responsibility is to stay with Christ. We won't know what is always the best, but He does. To know God's will our priority is to draw near to Him and the rest will be made clear.

As we grow in our knowledge of scripture we will find that the answers for many of our questions are already available. As we pray our desires and perspectives will be brought in line with those of Christ's so that we will grow in wisdom and be prepared to make wise decisions. As we study the circumstances we will have more information to make a God-honoring, well-informed decision. As we ask for the advice of other trustworthy Christians we will begin to see new perspectives of our situation that can help reveal God's will for our decisions.

Our first responsibility is to draw near to God. Our second responsibility is to be willing to follow wherever He leads. The third is to use the resources that He has made available to us so that we will be wise and make God-honoring decisions. May our lives be better because we follow His ways.

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