

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Decisions
Pastor Gabe
July 12, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is the best decision you have ever made? Why?

Reading: Proverbs 3:7-8, 11:3, 12:5,15, 15:30-33, 16: 25, 33, 19:2, 21

Outline:

- I. Trust God by placing your desire under his authority. (Prov. 3:5-8)
 - a. Don't assume your way of thinking is right. Instead, trust God knows best in all decisions.
 - b. Be aware of what else motivates you: what you're devoted to will dictate what you decide. Submit your desires to His authority, and let your devotion to God shape your decisions.
Q: What does it look like to fear the Lord? To turn from evil?
- II. Analyze your decision. (Prov. 12:5,15; 15:31-32; 19:2)
 - a. Don't make quick decisions in ignorance; gain knowledge as best you can. God works through rational knowledge and insight we gain from seeking the truth in a decision.
 - b. Seek out/listen to wise counsel from others. Don't assume your own insight is sufficient.
Q: When/how do you become "qualified" to give good/wise advice?
- III. Own the decision you make, and trust God to make good from it. (Prov. 16:3,25,33; 11:3; 19:21)
 - a. There is no perfect decision; we're inherently imperfect. But that doesn't override God's promises! We're free to make hard decisions, commit to them, and commit them to Him.
 - b. We can trust God to work good from our decisions, even in the parts that don't seem so good at the time. Look to how Christ fully committed His will to the Father on the cross.
Q: How do you own a decision while also committing it to God's will?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What motivates you besides following God?
- 2) Are there any big decisions you have to make in your life right now? How are you going about it?
- 3) Do you tend to make hasty decisions or fall into "analysis paralysis?" How can you change that?
- 4) Who are a couple individuals in your life you can turn to for godly/wise advice?
- 5) Have you seen God's will working in your decisions, now or in the past? What have you learned?

Suggestions for further study:

- Galatians 5:16-24**Q: How are we not under the law if we live by the Spirit?**
- 1 Kings 12:1-15**Q: What does this passage teach about seeking counsel?**
- Romans 8:27-32**Q: God works all things for good, so what is our role in making decisions?**

Closing Prayer: Lord, thank You for the wisdom of Your word. You invite us to make decisions in light of Your sovereignty and our responsibility, and in light of the reality that Your promise overcomes our imperfections. Grant wisdom and clarity as we make decisions. May we submit to You, knowing You are with us, working all things for good. We know this is true because of Jesus' sacrifice; as He committed His will to You, it brought us new life. May we live in that truth always. In His name we pray, Amen.

