

## How to make Biblically Sound Decisions (Proverbs 14:12)

The decisions we make however big or small can have a long, lasting impact on our lives. God created us with the freedom to practically do anything we want to do, but there is one thing we will never be free from doing and that is making decisions.

Everyday all of us have to decide, “What will I eat? What will I wear? How will I spend my income? What am I going to do today?”

There is no way any of us can go through life without making decisions. Some decisions we face are trivial, while others are life changers, but either way they can have a tremendous impact, not only on our lives but also on the lives of others.

Some people make decisions based upon what the majority is doing or what their culture is doing. God has placed us on this earth with the freedom to choose and we’ve got to decide, “What route am I going to take.” Today I would like for us to look at how to make Biblically sound decisions.

First I want us to understand,

### **The decisions we Make our Important:**

In Deut 30:19, Moses spoke to the Israelites saying, “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. With a tender heart he pleads with them saying, “Choose life, so that you and your children may live.”

I want us to think about some devastating decisions found in the Bible.

When Adam and Eve decided to disobey God by eating from that forbidden tree, the consequences affected us all. Rom 5:12 says, “When Adam sinned it brought death to everyone.”

In Gen 13, Lot decided to move his family near a wicked city called Sodom. What was the result? He lost all his belongings because God destroyed the city. He lost his wife because she disobeyed God and his daughters committed a horrible sin that was probably linked to living an immoral society.

In Judges 16, Sampson choose not to listen to his parents, married an ungodly woman named Delilah which resulted in the loss of his strength and finally his death.

In 1 Kings chapter 12, the wise King Solomon had a son named Rehoboam, who took the advice of a Friend, instead of his counselor. As a result, the kingdom was split.

In Matt chapter 19, a rich young ruler came to Jesus and asked, “What must I do to have eternal life? Jesus said keep the commandments? The ruler replied, “I’ve done that since I was a youth.” Jesus said “O, but there’s one thing you’re still lacking.

Sell all that you have and give it the poor.” That young man made a decision to walk away. Instead rejoicing about the treasure’s, he could have in heaven, he walked sorrowful because he could not give up his possessions.

Now think about some people who made righteous decisions in the Bible.

Heb 11:24 reveals that Moses could have enjoyed the temporary pleasures of Egypt, but instead chose to be afflicted with God’s people because he was looking ahead to his reward.

In Josh 24, Joshua said to the Israelites “Choose for yourselves you will serve, but as for me and my family we will serve the Lord. “

In the book of Ruth, Naomi, said to her daughter-in-laws, “you can either come home with me back to Jerusalem or you can go back to your families. Their husbands passed away. Opal decided, I’m going to go home, but Ruth said, I’m going home with you. “Where you go I will go, your home will be my home, your people will be my people and your God will be my God.”

Now that we know the decisions we make are important, how can we make biblically sound decisions?

## **I. What Does the Bible say?**

Prov chapter 6. Here Solomon is giving advice to his son. If these words were written to Rehoboam, the warning never reached his ears. Verse 20 says, ““My son, keep your father’s command. Do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.”

Here is the result. “When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And *when* you awake, they will speak with you. For the commandment *is* a lamp, And the law a light;

The Bible was written to help us make right decisions. Some of us are searching hard for guidance when we forget that God has already revealed what He wants us to do in the scriptures.

Psm 119:105 :says, “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

So, what happens if I don’t find a solid answer in the Bible? Maybe you are faced with a decision to buy or rent a house. What should you do in those cases?

## **II. Pray about it:**

James 1:5 says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James says, “If you don’t know the answer, let him ask God.” Prayer and searching the Bible for answers go hand and hand.

### **III. Does it go against my Conscience?**

Our conscience is an internal mechanism that God implanted in all of us. It's kind of like a moral compass that tells us what is right and what is wrong. It's interesting to read that some of the cultures that lived 1,000's of years ago who never even heard of a Bible have laws like God's. Paul talks about this in Rom 2:14

How did they know right from wrong? The conscience. In another letter, Paul said to go against or cause someone else to go against their conscience is wrong (1 Cor 8:12).

Does that mean our conscience is always right? When Paul was arresting Christians, he had at least one Christian put to death and he did it with a good conscience. (1 Cor 4:4). This why seeking God will in prayer and in His Word is so important. Our ability to know right from wrong will come from God's value system, not ours.

If you have spent time seeking God in prayer and have spent time His Word, but still have an uneasy conscience about something, that could be a good indicator not to choose a pathway.

#### **4. Be patient: Proverbs 16:32**

"It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city." –

Impulsive decisions are not always the best decisions to make. Getting what you want right now is not always better. The Bible teaches that it is always better to be patient and have self-control. Financial trouble and debt can add up quickly when we don't have the patience to wait on the things we think we need.

#### **5. Can I live with the consequences? Prov 22:3**

" A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.

Do you remember the account when Jesus was crucified? He hung between two thieves. One was on the right and the other was on the left. The one thief said, "If you really are who you say, then rescue us. "That's when the other thief spoke up. He said, "We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." – Luke 23:41-43.

What was that thief saying? "We deserve the consequences for what we did." Notice how Jesus granted him forgiveness from the cross, but He didn't take the thief off the cross. Whatever the thief did to deserve crucifixion, he made a choice and he had to pay the consequence.

Therefore, we have to think about the consequences before making important decisions. Will the choices I make have a positive or a negative impact affect after I make it?

## **6. Get Good advice:**

Proverbs 12:15: “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.”

Find mature Christians in the church who can help when faced with difficult choices.

**Close: My hope that the lesson today will help us to make Biblically sound decisions.**

Search for God’s answers in the Bible. Ask God what you should do with prayer. Be patient. Ask yourself, “Does this decision go against conscience and can I live with the consequences? Lastly, seek good advice, especially from the Elders and their wives.

Joel 3:14 says, “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.”

THOUGHTS create ACTIONS, Actions create HABITS, Habits create CHARACTER, and Character creates DESTINY.