**Your Ways are Better Than Mine**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

**Sunday Morning**

**October 13, 2019**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**There are three questions we should all ask whenever we are facing a major decision—what, when, and how.**

Saints, if we leave out even one of these, we could make the wrong choice and have to suffer the consequences. Therefore, the wisest approach is to come before the Lord, asking Him what He would have us do, how He would have us proceed, and when would be the right time according to His perfect will.

Saints, the story of Moses in Exodus 2:11-15 is an example of the importance of seeking God’s guidance before making a decision. Although Moses was a Hebrew, he was raised as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter in the palace—a place of Egyptian power, prominence, and prestige.

When he was an adult, he saw an Egyptian beating a fellow Hebrew and made a rash decision that radically changed his life. He intervened by killing the Egyptian, and as a result, he lost everything and became a fugitive fleeing for his life. Eventually he settled in the desert of Midian and became a shepherd.

**Exodus 2:11-15**

11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

**Getting Ahead of God**

Saints, just like Moses, we sometimes jump ahead of God by making hasty decisions without considering the consequences.

**1. Moses focused on an event rather than the Big Picture**

The Hebrews, who had sought refuge in Egypt hundreds of years earlier, had been forced into slavery by Pharaoh, who made their lives bitter with hard labor. When Moses saw a man being mistreated, he focused on the unfairness of the immediate situation rather than thinking ahead— that the remedy for the problem was a task only God could solve. His plan for delivering His people would not be enacted until 40 years later.

**2. He followed his reasoning rather than listening to God**

This is often what we do as well. We look at the situation and come to a faulty conclusion regarding what we should do, based on our own limited understanding. God, on the other hand, knows exactly what course of action is best, and He is willing to help us if we will seek His guidance.

**3. Moses acted on impulse rather than seeking to know what God would have him do**

His desire was to defend the Hebrew slave, but he didn’t think about the consequences. Although defending the helpless is good, Moses should have considered if his impulsive action was the wisest way to accomplish this. People tend to react rashly for several reasons:

**• Because of their attitude toward the situation**

**• Because of their prejudice in the situation**

**• Because of their selfishness**

When we act impulsively, we’re more likely to make decisions we may later regret. God wants us to first seek to know His will in the situation.

**4. Moses acted on his own strength rather than in God’s Power**

Human strength is very limited, but the Lord God is almighty. Later on, God’s power was illustrated when He delivered all the Hebrews from Egypt and destroyed the entire Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

**Moses Acted in Anger**

If we hold onto anger rather than quickly forgiving others, it will hide in our hearts until a situation triggers it (Eph. 4:16).

**Ephesians 4:16**

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Saints, then we are likely to respond in an embarrassing, hurtful, or destructive manner.

**Moses failed to consider the Consequences**

Saints, instead of responding impulsively to a situation, we should seriously think about the long-term ramifications. Some choices carry consequences that may last a lifetime.

**Staying in Step with God**

Saints, in order to make wise decisions, we must walk according to God’s will rather than doing whatever we think is best. If we seek to live His way, we can expect the following benefits:

**1. God will provide everything we Need**

Saints, when we have a relationship with the Lord of the universe, we can confidently come to Him with our requests, knowing that He will certainly do this:

**Philippians 4:19**

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

**2. The Lord will give us Specific Instructions**

Saints, the only way to receive His guidance is through His Word. We must not make the mistake of merely praying about our concerns yet never opening the Bible to hear what the Lord has to say.

**Joshua 1:7-9**

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

We do not have the knowledge or insight to know what the future holds, but we have a God who knows every detail of the past, present, and future, and He has given us His Book for guidance. The Scripture contains everything we need to know spiritually and morally in order to live according to His will.

**John 17:14-19**

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Saints, without God’s Word we will never know what He would have us do. In fact, we are unable to live the Christian life without a consistent intake of His Word.

**3. God will Remove our Fear**

Saints, since we don’t know what the future holds, making decisions can be a fearful experience because we cannot see the outcome or the consequences that may follow. But when we faithfully seek God’s guidance through His Word, He replaces our fear with confidence in Him.

**2 Timothy 1:7**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

**Romans 8:15**

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

**1 John 4:17-19**

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.

**4. We will see God work in unusual ways in our Circumstances**

However, we must trust Him and wait for His timing. If His answer to our prayer request is not answered immediately, it’s because He knows we’re not really ready to receive it or perhaps the timing isn’t right. If we want to experience God’s power in our lives, we must read His Word, wait patiently, and trust Him to answer at the right time.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Psalm 62:5-8**

5 My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. 7 In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. 8 Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

**5. We will learn God’s Ways**

When we seek His guidance by reading and obeying His Word, we will see how He operated in the scriptures as well as how He works in our lives. If we truly want to gain a greater understanding of the Lord, we must become well acquainted with His Word.

**Psalm 25:4-7**

4 Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. 6 Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

**6. God will use our weakness and failures to help us understand His will for Our Lives**

Our inadequacies and needs drive us to the Lord in prayer. Therefore, we should not think of them as negative experiences but as the means by which God draws us to Himself.

**2 Corinthians 7:9-10**

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

**Psalm 51:1-4**

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight--That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

**In Closing:**

**7. God can accomplish more in a brief period of time than we can in a Lifetime**

The Lord can do greater things His way than we ever could with our ways. Therefore, we should always seek His guidance rather than plunging ahead on our own.

**2 Corinthians 9:8-9**

8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever."

**Ephesians 3:20**

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us…”

**1. When making decisions, do you tend to think more about the situation or the consequences that could result from an impulsive choice?**

**2. What has been the result when you’ve acted impulsively without seeking God’s guidance?**

**3. Where do you go for help when making decisions?**

**4. What place does God’s Word have in the process?**

**5. When you receive guidance from the Bible, do you readily obey it or make excuses for why it doesn’t apply in your situation?**

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**