

MYC 2009 – The Exiles Return – Class 1

THE WILL OF GOD AND DECISION MAKING

Big Decisions

- ⦿ Baptism?
- ⦿ Teach Sunday School?
- ⦿ Move out of home?
- ⦿ Credit cards?
- ⦿ TV?
- ⦿ University? College?
- ⦿ Work?
- ⦿ Car?
- ⦿ Bible Version?
- ⦿ Single? Married?
- ⦿ Virginity?
- ⦿ Debt?
- ⦿ Kids?
- ⦿ Ecclesia?



Nehemiah – a decision maker!

- Go back to Jerusalem? YES!
- Build Jerusalem's walls? YES!
- God involved in the work? YES!
- Exploiting poor brethren? NO!
- Alliances with nations? NO!
- Marriage with pagans? NO!



Observe Nehemiah:

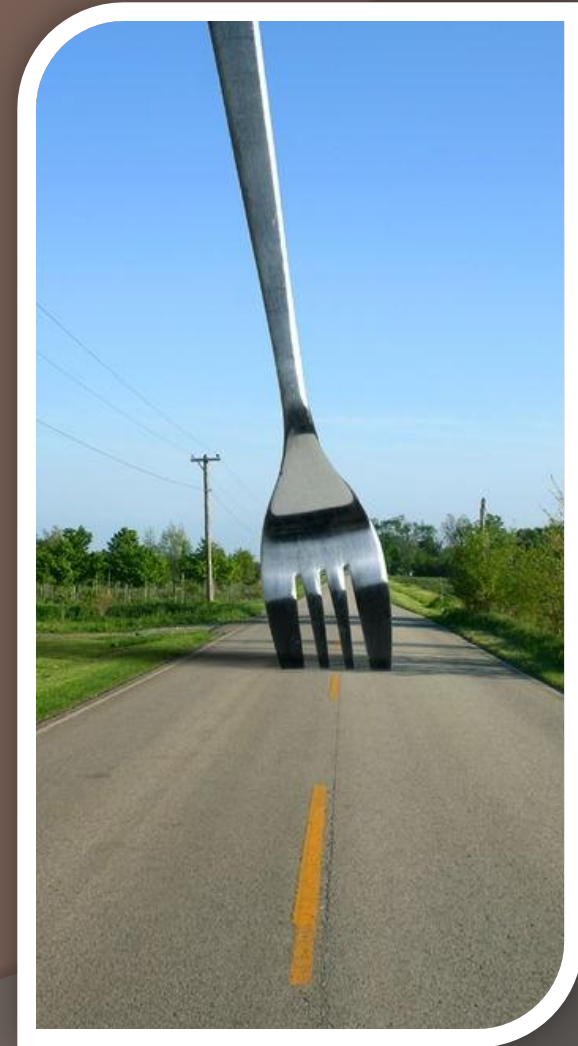
1. Asking for God's involvement in his life:
 - Neh.1:11; 4:4; 6:9
2. Seeing God work in his life:
 - Neh.2:8; 2:30; 4:15; 6:15-16
3. Making godly decisions
 - Neh.5:7-9; 7:5; 13:23-28

Problems understanding God's will and how to make decisions:

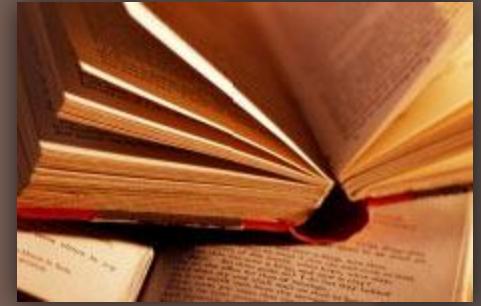
- ⦿ Limited personal experience takes precedent over common sense and spiritual thinking – ‘The case of the broken toilet’
- ⦿ Convinced by ‘paranormal’ occurrences – looking too much into normal events – ‘The case of the 4 broken hearts’
- ⦿ Confusing personal convictions with God's will – ‘The case of the missionary’ & ‘The case of the misguided ecclesia’

Does the Bible say much about decision making?

- 1 Corinthians 13:8 – HSG's have ceased
- 1 Corinthians 13:10 – 'that which is perfect' = the full canon of scripture
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – makes us 'thoroughly furnished' or 'equipped'



2 Parts to God's will:



1. Directive/Moral Will

- What is found in the Bible – what God wants us to do
- 2 Peter 1:2-3

2. Decreed Will (Plan)

- Everything that happens to fulfill God's plan – specifics only known through prophecy or afterwards
- Jeremiah 29:11

Quiz – God's will

- ⦿ Psalm 40:8
 - Directive will
- ⦿ Mark 3:35
 - Directive
- ⦿ James 4:15
 - Decreed
- ⦿ Ephesians 5:17
 - Directive
- ⦿ 1 Cor.4:19
 - Decreed



Why do we want to know God's Decreed will beforehand?

1. We like to justify our selfish will as 'God's will'
2. If it's God's Decreed will, we're free from consequences – not accountable
3. No reason to find all the facts and come to an intelligent answer – lazy!

The Bible's role in determining the Directive Will of God

1. No way to determine God's will and receive guidance apart from the scripture (2 Tim.3:16-17)
2. The Bible covers all areas of life – ALL (2 Pet.1:2-3)
3. The Scripture helps us to make yes/no choices or a limited number of equal choices that are ALL acceptable

Steps to Determining the Will of God:

1. Gather all the facts and list pros and cons
2. Search out all principles, examples, etc. of Scripture that have a bearing on the decision
3. Apply these to the pros and cons and the various options
4. May need to seek godly counsel
5. If narrowed down to 2 or more equally good choices (based on biblical principles), may decide on the basis of preference

Example 1 – Buying a car



Example 1 – Buying a car



1. 2 models of Civic – 2-door and 4-door
 - Pros of getting a car – get to work, school, meeting
 - Cons of getting a car – expensive, polluting, break down
2. List all verses that apply to decision
 - Pros/cons – worth spending \$ on since 1Tim 5:8 commands me to work and Mal.3:16 recommends talking often one to another. Also, I'll get a car with good gas mileage
 - 2-door vs. 4-door – no direct verses – but, 1 Pet.3:7 commands me to dwell with my wife in understanding; Psalm 127 talks about the benefits of raising a godly family

Example 1 – Buying a car



3. I will choose the 4-door because my wife wants it so that it is easier to get the kids in and out of in their car seats... I wave goodbye to my 2-door dream...
4. No counsel needed (easier decision)
5. 5 different colors of 4-doors – choose black to gain back some pride



Example 2 - School

- ⦿ Will it mean missing out on Sunday Meetings/Bible Classes?
- ⦿ Will it mean leaving home and living at residence?
- ⦿ Will the environment impede my spiritual development?
- ⦿ Am I going to get caught up with the social life?
- ⦿ Will the study load mean I will neglect my own personal Bible study?
- ⦿ Do I have the stability and sustainability to perform the work asked of me?
- ⦿ Can I effectively withstand the ungodly behavior of worldly students?
- ⦿ What is the cost going to be in my service to God?

Example 2 – School



Proverbs 3:5-6

‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.’