

Decisive Indecision

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. John 7:24 - What the Lord wants.
 - 1. He wants us to make judgments and decisions.
 - 2. He wants us to use wisdom and prudence in so doing.
 - 3. "Evil draws much of its power from indecision and concern for what other people think." (Benedict)
 - 4. "Having made the decision, do not revise it unless some new fact comes to your knowledge. Nothing is so exhausting and futile as indecision." (Bertrand Russell, *The Conquest of Happiness*)
- B. Make wise choices - Deut. 30:19; 1Kings 18:21
 - 1. Be decisive - Prov. 4:25-27; Isa. 50:7
 - 2. Perseverance math
 - a. Patience + nothing else = enduring, surviving (to what purpose; accomplishing what?)
 - b. Willpower + nothing else = acting, doing (to what purpose; accomplishing what?)
 - c. Patience + Willpower = Perseverance (accomplishing good, doing well in the long term, to the end)

I. WHY WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE DECISIONS

- A. Fear of uncertain outcomes (Fear of failure).
 - 1. Matt. 25:24-26 - No risk, no problem? Nothing ventured, nothing lost?
 - 2. "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing." (Theodore Roosevelt)
- B. Fear of leadership or fear of being alone in the decision - 1Cor. 6:2-3
 - 1. Wait for someone else; husband waits for wife, or vice versa.
 - 2. Some believe they are incapable of making decisions.
 - 3. Must be convenient to say, "I am willpower and courage disabled."
- C. Irresponsible - John 9:39-41
 - 1. You can't have it both ways; you can't have the privileges of adulthood without the responsibilities; you can't have the blessings in Christ without bearing a cross.
 - 2. "One thing I've found... the road rarely rises up to meet you until you've begun walking." (Michele Jennae)
- D. Unhealthy fear of God - (i.e., "He's eagerly waiting to punish me if I make a single mistake")
 - 1. Prov. 29:25; Isa 51:12-13; Heb. 12:9-12
- E. Do not want to move out of my comfort zone - Acts 1:8, 8:1
- F. Don't trust God for the results.
 - 1. Since we can't see past the horizon, we think God can't either.
 - 2. 1Sam 13:5-14 - Saul made an impatient, unauthorized offering at Gilgal.

II. HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS

- A. Heavy focus on prayer - Neh. 1:4
- B. Gather all necessary instruction and information.
 - 1. Get a first-hand view of the work - Neh. 2:12-16
 - 2. Count the cost (assets and liabilities) - Luke 14:28-30
- C. Seek Godly counsel - Prov. 15:22; Judges 18:5
- D. Never rush into a critical decision - Prov. 15:28, 21:5, 29:20
- E. Never make decisions when emotions run high - Num. 14:39-45
- F. Ask searching questions.
 - 1. Will this decision hinder my Christian walk and influence?
 - 2. How will it impact the rest of my life?
 - 3. How will it impact my family, my brethren, and my friends?

Conclusion:

A. "The mind of Caesar. It is the reverse of most men's. It rejoices in committing itself. To us arrive each day a score of challenges; we must say yes or no to decisions that will set off chains of consequences. Some of us deliberate; some of us refuse the decision, which is itself a decision; some of us leap giddily into the decision, setting our jaws and closing our eyes, which is the sort of decision of despair. Caesar embraces decision. It is as though he felt his mind to be operating only when it is interlocking itself with significant consequences. Caesar shrinks from no responsibility. He heaps more and more upon his shoulders." (Thornton Wilder, *The Ides of March*)

- B. Jesus prayed earnestly in the Garden, but He came to a decisive decision.
 - 1. Mark 14:42 - "Get up, let us go onward. Look, My betrayer is nearby."