

Decisive Indecision

John 7:24

Decisive Indecision

- John 7:24 - “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”
- What the Lord wants.
 - He wants us to make judgments and decisions.
 - He wants us to use wisdom and prudence in so doing.

Decisive Indecision

- “Evil draws much of its power from indecision and concern for what other people think.”
(Benedict)
- “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)*

Decisive Indecision

- Make wise choices.
 - Deut. 30:19 - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”
 - 1Kings 18:21 - “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word.”

Decisive Indecision

- Be decisive.
 - Prov. 4:25-27 - “Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.”
 - Isa. 50:7 - “For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.”

Decisive Indecision

- Perseverance math
 - Patience + nothing else = enduring, surviving
 - (to what purpose; accomplishing what?)
 - Willpower + nothing else = acting, doing
 - (to what purpose; accomplishing what?)
 - Patience + Willpower = Perseverance
 - (accomplishing good, doing well in the long term, to the end)

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Fear of uncertain outcomes (Fear of failure).
 - Matt. 25:24-26 - “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ 26 But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.’”

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- “No risk, no problems.”?
- “Nothing ventured, nothing lost.”?
- “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)*

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Fear of leadership or fear of being alone in the decision.
 - 1Cor. 6:2-3 - “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?”
 - Some believe they are incapable of making decisions.
 - Must be convenient to say, “I am willpower and courage disabled.”

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Irresponsible.
 - John 9:39-41 - “And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.’ 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, ‘Are we blind also?’ 41 Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, “We see.” Therefore your sin remains.’”
 - “One thing I’ve found... the road rarely rises up to meet you until you've begun walking.” (*Michele Jennae*)

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Unhealthy fear of God.
 - Prov. 29:25 - “The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”
 - Isa. 51:12-13 - “I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid Of a man who will die, And of the son of a man who will be made like grass? 13 And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor?”

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Unhealthy fear of God.
 - Heb. 12:9-12 - “Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees.”

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Do not want to move out of my comfort zone.
 - Acts 1:8 - “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - Acts 8:1 - “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”

Why We Do Not Want To Make Decisions

- Do not trust God for the results.
 - Since we can't see past the horizon, we think God can't either.
 - 1Sam 13:5-14

How To Make Wise Decisions

- Heavier focus on prayer.
 - Neh. 1:4 - “So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

How To Make Wise Decisions

- Gather all necessary instructions and information.
 - Get a first-hand view of the work.
 - Neh. 2:12-15 - “Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. 13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass. 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.”

How To Make Wise Decisions

- Gather all necessary instructions and information.
 - Count the cost (assets and liabilities).
 - Luke 14:28-30 - “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”

How To Make Wise Decisions

- Seek Godly counsel.
 - Prov. 15:22 - “Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.”
 - Judges 18:5 - “So they said to him, ‘Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous.’”

How To Make Wise Decisions

- Never rush into a critical decision.
 - Prov. 15:28 - “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”
 - Prov. 21:5 - “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”
 - Prov. 29:20 - “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Decisive Indecision

- Never make decisions when emotions run high.
 - Num. 14:39-45
- Ask searching questions:
 - Will this decision hinder my Christian walk and influence?
 - How will it impact the rest of my life?
 - How will it impact my family, brethren, and friends?

Decisive Indecision

“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*)

Decisive Indecision

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