Making Wise Decisions

Note: These are my unedited speaking notes. They are, however my personal notes not to be used for sale or reproduction. The ten points are original in their arrangement.

1. **Introduction**

   a. You are called upon to make decisions all too often in life.

   b. Many of the decisions you make are inconsequential such as the color clothing you chose to wear to church tonight.

   c. What you chose to eat may be minor today, but major a year or more from now.

   d. David Turner shared quote – “Bad decisions make good stories.”

   e. Your decisions determine your destiny.

   f. The values you embrace – the friends you choose – the habits you form – the vocation you select – and the spouse you marry all have serious consequences in your life.

   g. **You can choose to do whatever you want in life, but you do not get to choose the consequences for your decisions.**

   h. **The consequences are pre-determined based on your choices and are locked into the laws of sowing and reaping.**

   i. It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who said:

      1. Sow a thought and you reap an action;

      2. sow an act and you reap a habit;

      3. sow a habit and you reap a character;

      4. sow a character and you reap a destiny.

   j. I cannot express the depth of anointing and alarm I felt as I worked on this message.

   k. I am speaking to someone who is at a critical decision point in your life.
l. You may be contemplating a decision that may have a devastating affect on your life.

m. I will be sharing practical principles, but please know that the Holy Ghost is at work for someone right now.

n. One practical comment – to those who abhor alliteration, (using the same letter for each point in my sermon) it just worked out that way.

o. Let’s dig in to the criteria for “Making Wise Decisions.”

p. I want to share 10 points – will hopefully finish tonight – but if not, to be continued.

q. Life is just an endless chain of judgements. . . . The more imperfect our judgement, the less perfect our success - B. C. Forbes

r. Life is the sum of all your choices - Albert Camus

2. #1 - Principles Must Underlie Decisions

a. Cornerstone principle.

   1. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone in life. Period.

2. Isaiah.

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(Isa 28:16 KJV) “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”

NO MEDIA

NLT – PASSAGE

(Isa 28:14–18 NLT-SE) ¶ Therefore, listen to this message from the LORD, you scoffing rulers in Jerusalem.

"Isa 28:15" You boast, “We have struck a bargain to cheat death and have made a deal to dodge the grave. The coming destruction can never touch us, for we have built a strong refuge made of lies and deception.”
Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.

I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness. Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.

I will cancel the bargain you made to cheat death, and I will overturn your deal to dodge the grave. When the terrible enemy sweeps through, you will be trampled into the ground."

3. Paul - Ephesians

(Eph 2:19–21 KJV) “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:"

4. What is a cornerstone and what is its purpose? Wikipedia to the rescue.

1. The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation,

2. important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

3. Over time a cornerstone became a ceremonial masonry stone, or replica, set in a prominent location on the outside of a building, with an inscription on the
stone indicating the construction dates of the building and the names of architect, builder and other significant individuals.

4. The rite of laying a cornerstone is an important cultural component of eastern architecture and metaphorically in sacred architecture generally.

5. Some cornerstones include time capsules from the time a particular building was built.

6. The origins of this tradition are vague but its presence in Judeo-Christian countries can be associated with one quotation from the Old Testament (Psalm 118:22).

7. DJ — more than one — Add Isaiah 28:16 plus?


5. If you want the building of your life to stand and be strong, make sure you reference everything in your life back to the corner stone.

6. Do you values line up to the corner stone of Jesus Christ and His Word?

7. What about your friends?

8. Activities?

9. Dress and behaviors?

10. Far too many people make life-altering decisions without regard to the corner stone.

11. No wonder, so many lives are like buildings that are leaning over and about to collapse.

12. No wonder your life is so out of sync and in chaos.

13. You are trying to put Jesus Christ second place in your life. Or worse.

14. Here are some cornerstone principles.
1. Biblical principles – The Bible is the final authority in my life.

2. Bible convictions

3. The Bible is not a rulebook, but a road map.

4. The Bible is God’s owner’s manual for humans.
   
   b. You set yourself up for shipwreck and heartache when you snub your nose at God, choosing to ignore biblical principles.
   
   c. I will talk about prayer later, but prayer not guided principles leads to error.
   
   d. Heaven and earth pass away:

   NO MEDIA

   (Matt 24:35 KJV) “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

   e. First and foremost in your life should be the consideration of principles.
   
   f. The second consideration is your purpose in life.

3. #2 - Purpose in life.

   a. Man’s purpose in life. Rick Warren had this right. (From PDL web site)

   1. We were planned for God’s pleasure, so your first purpose is to offer real worship.
   
   2. We were formed for God’s family, so your second purpose is to enjoy real fellowship.
   
   3. We were created to become like Christ, so your third purpose is to learn real discipleship.
   
   4. We were shaped for serving God, so your fourth purpose is to practice real ministry.
5. We were **made for a mission**, so your fifth purpose is to live out real evangelism.

**b. Your SHAPE is God’s unique design for you.**

1. Spiritual gifts
2. Heart
3. Abilities
4. Personality
5. Experiences

c. **Your purpose in life should determine what you decide to do with your time, talent, treasure.**

d. **When making decisions, you should always ask, “Does this decision fit God’s plan for my life?”**

e. As an older teenager, I made some decisions because I realized the Lord was calling me into ministry and some people – activities – did not fit in my life.

f. Those activities were not necessarily sinful, but not expedient – not good choices.

g. Others may – I cannot – is a principle.

h. In my late 20’s, there was a business opportunity that I turned down.

1. $20,000.00 a year in the 1980’s,

2. but that is not my purpose and while others in ministry are very successful business professionals, I am not to do that.

i. **ASK - Will this decision move me toward or away from my life purpose.**

j. Why would you want to spend your life in detours, distractions and defeats all because you set off in the wrong direction in life.

k. I know that some specifics about your purpose in life have to unfold, but you should act on what you DO know about your purpose.

l. It is your purpose to serve God and make Him first in your life – the cornerstone.
m. Any decision that undermines the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life is a BAD decision.

n. Do not hitch your wagon – do not bond your life by word or contract to a person who is going in a different direction.

o. What are you thinking?

p. The principle of the **equal yoke** is not just about dating and marrying a person of the same faith.

q. Any person you make a commitment to – marriage – business – close relationship - should have the same focus on life.

r. Wise decision are made when you understand your purpose in life.

s. The third principle is:

4. **#3 - Priorities**

   a. Based on principles and my life purpose, what are my priorities?

   b. What is most important in my life?

   c. The first commandment gives us our top priority.

**MEDIA**

(Exod 20:3 KJV) “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”


      1. the fact or condition of **being prior**; precedence in time, order, importance, etc.

      2. a **right to precedence** over others in obtaining, buying, or doing something

      3. an order granting this, as in an emergency

      4. something to be given prior attention

   e. **When you set your priorities you are choosing to set one thing above or below another.**
f. Some things are superior and others are subordinate your life.

g. **Pressures or priorities** – which one is driving you?

h. There are examples in the Bible when God sent His people out of their homeland.

i. **Isaac was in a time of famine** and he thought he should go to Egypt, but the Lord told him otherwise.

j. It seems like an odd command given the past and what we NOW know about the future of Isaac’s family.

1. Abraham, Isaac’s father had experienced famine and went down to Egypt to survive.

NO MEDIA

(Gen 12:9–10 KJV) “And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

"Gen 12:10" ¶ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land."

2. In one generation, Isaac’s son, Jacob would take his entire family of 70 souls down to Egypt.

NO MEDIA

(Gen 46:26–27 KJV) “All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob’s sons’ wives, all the souls were threescore and six;

"Gen 46:27" And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.”

3. That was NOT God’s plan for Isaac.

NO MEDIA

(Gen 26:1–5 KJV) “¶ And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

"Gen 26:2" And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:
"Gen 26:3" Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;

"Gen 26:4" And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

"Gen 26:5" Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

1. **Isaac sowed in THAT land and the Lord blessed him.**

NO MEDIA

(Gen 26:12–13 KJV) “¶ Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

"Gen 26:13" And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

k. **Eliimelech and Naomi made a bad decision based on wrong priorities.**

1. They left Bethlehem-Judah for Moab in search of food.

NO MEDIA

(Ruth 1:1–5 KJV) “¶ Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

"Ruth 1:2" And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

"Ruth 1:3" And Elimelech Naomi’s husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

"Ruth 1:4" And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.
"Ruth 1:5" And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband."

2. Elimilech and Naomi did not have the favor of God to move to Moab.


4. In time, things went bad in Moab. The loss for Noami was terrible.

5. Elimilech, her husband died.

6. Mahlon and Chilion, her sons died.

7. Years later – Naomi’s perspective was – I went our full and came home empty.

NO MEDIA

(Ruth 1:19–21 KJV) "¶ So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?"

"Ruth 1:20" And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

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"Ruth 1:21" I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?"

8. It was the mercy of God that allowed Ruth – the Moabite daughter-in-law to be married to Boaz and become part of the lineage of Christ.

I. If your priorities are right, God will bless you where you are or He will guide you to the place you should do.

m. If you place finances over faith – you will take a job even if it is not best for your family.

n. If you do not have the right priorities you will move to a city where there is no church.
o. (God could have you start a church, but seldom is that the plan.)

p. You may take a job that requires travel when you do not have to travel.

q. (I had 8 years of my ministry that involved a lot of travel and we worked to keep family strong)

5. #4 - Prayer

a. You cannot pray right and live wrong. You should make every decision a matter of prayer.

b. Many, many poor decisions would be averted if we only took them to the Lord in prayer.

c. Pray, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

MEDIA

(Matt 26:39 KJV) “And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

d. If the Lord will.

MEDIA

(Jas 4:13–15 KJV) “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

"Jas 4:14" Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

"Jas 4:15" For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

e. Pray for wisdom

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(Jas 1:2–8 KJV) “¶ My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

"Jas 1:3" Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
"Jas 1:4" But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

"Jas 1:5" If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

"Jas 1:6" But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

"Jas 1:7" For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

"Jas 1:8" A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

f. Prayer for clarity.

g. Pray for patience – more on this later.

NO MEDIA

(Ps 40:1 KJV) “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

h. Pray for the peace of God – next point.

6. #5 - Peace of God

a. The peace of God is more than an emotion.

b. Peace WITH God is a right standing with Him.

c. When you are making a decision, you need God to make a ruling in your life. When he rules, there is peace.

d. Let the peace of God rule:

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(Col 3:15 KJV) “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

1. Word study on the word “rule.”

2. The previous references to occasions for meekness, long-suffering, forbearance, forgiveness, etc., indicate a conflict of passions and motives in the heart.

3. Christ is the one who adjusts all these, so that the metaphorical sense is appropriate, as in ch. 2:18.  

2. Barnes Notes:

1. *Rule in your hearts.*

2. *Preside in your hearts; sit as umpire there, (Doddridge;) govern and control you.*

3. The word here rendered rule brabeuetw—is commonly *used in reference to the Olympic and other games.*

4. It means, to be a director, or arbiter of the public games;

5. to preside over them and preserve order, and to distribute the prizes to the victors.

6. The meaning here is, that the peace which God gives to the soul is to be to us what the *brabeutes*, or governor at the games, was to those who contended there.

7. It is to preside over and govern the mind; to preserve everything in its place;

8. and to save it from tumult, disorder, and irregularity. The thought is a very beautiful one.

9. *The soul is liable to the agitations of passion* and excitement—like an assembled multitude of men.

10. *It needs something to preside over it,* and keep its various faculties in place and order;

11. and nothing is so well fitted to do this as the calm peace which religion gives, a deep sense of the

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presence of God, the desire and the evidence of his friendship, the hope of his layout, and the belief that he has forgiven all our sins.

12. The “peace of God” will thus calm down every agitated element of the soul;

13. subdue the tumult of passion, and preserve the mind in healthful action and order—as a ruler sways and controls the passions of assembled multitudes of men.²

e. I know that when you are making a tough decision, you can have anxiety. You can play out a hundred scenarios.

f. I am blessed and cursed with a mind full of questions and options. But, I do understand the ruling of the peace of God.

g. When God does NOT give peace in your spirit – you should – stop – wait – pray – get counsel.

h. The ruling of God by a sense of peace is not the only factor in making wise decisions, but it is a major one.

7. Wrap-up Comments for part 1

a. Proverbs 3:5-6

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(Proverbs 3:5–6 KJV)

“Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

FINISHED TO THIS POINT – 2/17/2011

Making Wise Decisions – Part 2

First five points were:

Principles
Purpose
Priorities
Prayer
Peace of God

Now – on to point 6.

8. #6 - Precedent

a. (Thanks to David Turner for this “P” word in our 301 meeting.)

b. What does history teach me about this decision?

c. The word precedent – not precedence – means:

1. In common law legal systems,

2. a precedent or authority is a legal case establishing a principle or rule

3. that a court or other judicial body utilizes when

4. deciding subsequent cases with similar issues or facts.

5. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precedent

d. My personal history.

1. What has happened when I’ve made this same decision before?

2. Am I repeating old destructive behaviors?
3. If I spend impulsively, what will happen to my budget? Credit score? Relationships? Other priorities?

e. The history of others.

1. I have made it a goal in life to not learn by my mistakes.

2. I would rather learn from your mistakes.

3. A favorite quote: Some people will only learn by experience. They attend the school of hard knocks where the school colors are black and blue.

4. How did this turn out for others who made a similar decision?

5. Quote – condemned to repeat history:

   1. **George Santayana** (born Jorge Agustín Nicolás Ruiz de Santayana y Borrás in Madrid, December 16, 1863; died September 26, 1952, in Rome) was a Spanish American philosopher, essayist, poet, and novelist.

   2. A lifelong Spanish citizen, Santayana was raised and educated in the United States, wrote in English and is generally considered an American man of letters.

   3. Santayana is perhaps best known today for his remark that

   4. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

f. The Old Testament is a book of examples showing the consequences of the decisions that were made.

   1. For example:

   NO MEDIA

   (1 Cor 10:1–13 KJV) “¶ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
"1 Cor 10:2" And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

"1 Cor 10:3" And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

"1 Cor 10:4" And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

"1 Cor 10:5" But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

"1 Cor 10:6" Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

"1 Cor 10:7" Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

"1 Cor 10:8" Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

"1 Cor 10:9" Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

"1 Cor 10:10" Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

"1 Cor 10:11" Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

"1 Cor 10:12" Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

"1 Cor 10:13" There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are
able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

g. Precedent is vital to making wise decisions.

h. What can we learn from the past?

i. The next point is the perspective of counsel.

9. **#7 - Perspective of Counsel**

   a. It is important for you to listen to godly counsel because you have blind spots.

   b. Most vehicles have blind spots and what you cannot see still exists.

   c. At the tender age of 16, I totaled my 1966 Chevelle because I did not see another car that was approaching from my right.

   d. Evidently, she was in a blind spot when I pulled out.

   e. You do not know about your blind spot because it is a blind spot.

   f. If you could see it, it would not be a blind spot. I have them too. We all do.

   g. By blind spot, I mean an **area in your life to which you are blind** – and ignorant of your own vulnerability and weakness.

   h. You are NEVER objective when it comes to YOU.

   i. You are probably not objective when it comes to your family.

   j. Please do not despair, because to deal with your blind spot, the Lord gave you mirrors – called friends and counselors.

   k. My wife’s car has a cool feature. It is a flashing indicator on the side view mirrors that lets you know there is a car beside you – in your blind spot

   l. **Your perspective is flawed when it comes to personal decisions, so you need the perspective of godly counsel.**
(Prov 11:14 KJV) ¶ Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

"Prov 15:22" ¶ Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

"Prov 24:6" For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

m. There is something I know about godly counsel.

n. If I always trust people in my life for counsel and suddenly will not listen to them, I am headed for a BIG mistake.

o. Reheboam listened to the counsel of the young men and ignored the counsel of elders.

(NO MEDIA)

(1 Kgs 11:42–12:14 KJV) “And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

"1 Kgs 11:43" And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

"1 Kgs 12:1" ¶ And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

"1 Kgs 12:2" And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) 

"1 Kgs 12:3" That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

"1 Kgs 12:4" Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

"1 Kgs 12:5" And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.
"1 Kgs 12:6" And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

"1 Kgs 12:7" And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

"1 Kgs 12:8" But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

"1 Kgs 12:9" And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

"1 Kgs 12:10" And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

"1 Kgs 12:11" And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

"1 Kgs 12:12" So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

"1 Kgs 12:13" And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

"1 Kgs 12:14" And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

See also 2 Chronicles 10.

p. If you have yourself for a counselor (teacher) you have a fool for a counselor.

q. I want to say this respectfully – but if you only have your PEERS for your counselors, you do not have the perspective that comes with age, to make wise decisions.
r. Only the Lord God Almighty does not need to take counsel with anyone else. He is THE counselor.

s. Do yourself a favor. Surround yourself with godly people and include elders in your decisions-making process.

t. Don’t surround yourself with “yes” men or women who will tell you only what you want to hear.

u. The Emperor who was deceived by some shysters who pretended to be tailors was left EXPOSED because no one would tell him the truth, until a little boy, who had nothing to lose, came along.

v. In the multitude of counselors there is safety.

w. Perspective of Counsel is point 7.

x. The next consideration in making wise decisions is to consider the people in your life.

10. #8 - People

a. I am not saying that you make wise decisions to please people in the sense of a politically correct decision.

b. I am saying that people are a factor in making wise decisions because you live in community with other people.

c. Your decisions affect other people.

d. The ultimate act of selfishness is suicide – because it totally ignores the affect of your actions on other people.

e. 2015 – I want to repeat what I just said about suicide.

1. You may feel that the world would be better off without you.

2. You may feel that your family would be better off if you were not around.

3. But that is a terrible perspective.

4. Your family needs you and you do not need to leave them to dealt with the aftermath of suicide.
f. You do not live to yourself or die to yourself. Romans 14 addresses the affects of our actions on others.

**MEDIA**

(Rom 14:7 KJV) “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”

g. When you are making a decision, you need to ask, “How will this decision affect the people in my life?”

1. Parents
2. Siblings
3. Spouse
4. Children
5. Friends
6. Church
7. Co-workers
8. Ministry Team – my decisions affect many people.

**h. Lot’s bad decision**

1. When Lot made his decision to choose the well-watered plains, he was probably thinking of what was best for his flocks and herds.

**NO MEDIA**

(Gen 13:10–11 KJV) “¶ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

"Gen 13:11" Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.”

2. Lot was not considering the impact of the environment he chose on his family.

3. His wife and daughters were not interested in the grasslands, they were caught up with the city of Sodom.

4. Lot aimed his life - pitched his tent - toward Sodom.
“Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.”

"But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

5. Lot ends up living in Sodom, a wicked city.

6. Lot’s daughters marry men of the city.

7. When Lot warns of judgment, his sons-in-law mocked him.

"And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law."

8. The people of the city of Sodom ridiculed him for moving there and then trying to judge them.

"And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door."

1. Lot chose to live in an evil place and he had no credibility with his family or the men of Sodom.

2. You cannot condone and condemn at the same time.

9. Lots’ wife dies.

"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

10. The consequences of Lot’s decision on his family were horrific.

11. Lot’s daughters get him drunk and commit incest with him.
NO MEDIA

(Gen 19:30–38 KJV) “¶ And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he **dwell in a cave**, he and his two daughters.

"Gen 19:31" And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:

"Gen 19:32" Come, let us make our father drink wine, and **we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father**.

"Gen 19:33" And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

"Gen 19:34" And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

"Gen 19:35" And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

"Gen 19:36" Thus were **both the daughters of Lot with child by their father**.

"Gen 19:37" And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.

"Gen 19:38" And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.”

12. The nations of **Moab and Ammon** are the result of those incestuous incidents.

i. You need to think carefully about what you are doing when you make a decision, and whom it will affect.

j. For example, the person you marry affects more than just two people.

k. You may think that you do not care what your family thinks about your spouse - for a while – but not for long.
l. **You marry a family** not just the person whose name is on the marriage license.

m. If you are a **single parent** and are considering marriage – you should remember that your decision must take into account the feelings and opinions of your children.

   1. Dr. Laura advises you to wait until your children are grown.

n. Divorce is often a decision that does not fully appreciate the impact on others.

o. **My personal perspective on the people in my life.**

   1. It is almost impossible for me to make a decision of any magnitude that does not affect my wife.

   2. Most every decision I make affects our family – this church – my ministry.

   3. I work at being accountable in the decisions I make understanding the ramifications of those choices.

   4. John Maxwell observed that the person with the fewest personal rights is the person who leads and organization.

   5. You give up – freedom – to go up in responsibility.

p. **Decisions are not made in a vacuum – they are made in community.**

q. **You do not live or die unto yourself** (In the context of Christian liberty.)

**MEDIA**

(Romans 14:7 KJV)

“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”

r. The people who surround you should be **considered and consulted** if you are going to make a wise decision.

s. (If time – my Division of Education decisions when I thought Carol was in the boat with me and she was shocked when I announced my acceptance of the role of Secretary in a staff meeting.)
t. Review 8 Words

1. Principles
2. Purpose
3. Priorities
4. Prayer
5. Peace of God
6. Precedent
7. Perspective of Counsel
8. People

The ninth principle is:

9. Patience

11. #9 - Patience

a. There is an old saying that says, “love can wait but lust is impatient.”

b. After the first lesson, (several years ago) Bro. Buddy Simmons gave me what he calls a gold nugget, (a wise saying)

c. “Never make a major decision when you are discouraged.”

d. Jeff Arnold said, “Don’t make a decision when you are under the Juniper tree – a place of discouragement, fatigue, defeat.

NO MEDIA

(1 Kgs 19:4 KJV) “But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.”

e. The Bible says much about those who are hasty and not patient.

MEDIA

(Prov 14:29 KJV) “¶ He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”

MEDIA
(Prov 21:5 KJV) “¶ The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.”

Media

(Prov 29:20 KJV) “¶ Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.”

f. Daniel said that King Nebuchadnezzar was acting in haste when he sent a decree to kill the wise men of Babylon.

1. The king had a dream and wanted it interpreted, but he could not even remember the dream.

2. Of course, his wise men needed to hear the dream so they could make up some interpretation.

3. Daniel intervened.

No Media

(Dan 2:12–16 KJV) “For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

"Dan 2:13" And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

"Dan 2:14" ¶ Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king’s guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

"Dan 2:15" He answered and said to Arioch the king’s captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

"Dan 2:16" Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.”

g. Waiting is part of God’s process.

No Media

(Ps 40:1 KJV) “¶ I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

h. In the wilderness wanderings, Israel did NOT have patience to wait on a word from the Lord.
NO MEDIA

(Ps 106:13–15 KJV) “¶ They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

"Ps 106:14" But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

"Ps 106:15" And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”

i. Satan offered Jesus Christ the kingdoms of the world NOW, but Jesus understood the fallacy of Satan’s offer.

NO MEDIA

(Matt 4:8–10 KJV) “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

"Matt 4:9" And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

"Matt 4:10" Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

j. Eventually, all the kingdoms of the world would be his permanently.

NO MEDIA

(Rev 11:15 KJV) “

"Rev 11:15" And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

k. Good things do come to those who wait.

l. Psalm 37 – a Psalm of patience.

NO MEDIA

(Ps 37:0–11 KJV) “¶ A Psalm of David.

"Ps 37:1" ¶ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.
"Ps 37:2" For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

"Ps 37:3" Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

"Ps 37:4" Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

"Ps 37:5" Commit thy way unto the LORD; **trust also in him**; and he shall bring it to pass.

"Ps 37:6" And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

**MEDIA**

"Ps 37:7" ¶ Rest in the LORD, and **wait patiently for him**: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

"Ps 37:8" Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

"Ps 37:9" For evildoers shall be cut off: **but those that wait upon the LORD**, they shall inherit the earth.

"Ps 37:10" For **yet a little while**, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

"Ps 37:11" But the meek [submitted] shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

(Ps 37:34 KJV) “¶ **Wait on the LORD**, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.”

m. **You have need of patience.**

**MEDIA**

(Heb 10:35–39 KJV) “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

"Heb 10:36" For **ye have need of patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
"Heb 10:37" For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

"Heb 10:38" Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

"Heb 10:39" But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

n. Time and the record will show.

o. I realize that some people cannot make a decision.

p. They are afraid of failure. They are adverse to risk.

q. You do need to pull the trigger – make the decision, but be patient until you know you are making a WISE decision.

r. Ask Abraham what happened when he made the decision to father a child by Sarah’s servant, Hagar. Ishmael was the result and his descendants are still thorns in the side of the Jews.

s. God will not bless your mess, but He will love you through it.

t. Some people wait and wait and then make an unwise decision after they waited so long.

    1. They run out of patience – or maybe they were embarrassed?

    2. Perhaps they succumbed to Peer pressure.

u. Saul, the first king of Israel did this.

    1. Samuel had told Saul to wait for seven days.

    2. Saul did.

v. He waited and on the day Samuel was to come, before the day was over, he acted foolishly and offered a sacrifice that belonged was not his place to offer.
(1 Sam 13:8–14 KJV) “¶ And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

"1 Sam 13:9" And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

"1 Sam 13:10" And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

"1 Sam 13:11" And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

1. **Notice the three reasons Saul gave for not waiting.**

   1. My popularity is declining. (The people were scattered from me.)

   2. I am disappointed because it looks like **God is not coming through for me.** (You did not come when you said.)

   3. There is **trouble on the horizon** and I need to make something happen. (The Philistines are gathering for another attack.

NO MEDIA

"1 Sam 13:12" Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

(Message – I took things into my own hands.)

"1 Sam 13:13" And Samuel said to Saul, **Thou hast done foolishly:** thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

"1 Sam 13:14" But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the **LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart**, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”
2. Come on Saul – you waited until the seventh day.

3. Could you not wait through that day?

4. You waited so long and now you are doing a foolish thing.

5. God is not a liar, but he does test your commitment to honor Him.

w. You need patience in making wise decisions.

x. The final consideration in making wise decisions is process.

12. #10 - Process

a. So this is the right decision, how should it be implemented - rolled-out?

1. If you intend to have others understand your decision – since you live in community;

2. If you want others to accept and follow you in a decision, it should not be a SHOCK.

b. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Who should know?

2. What should they know?

3. When should they know?

4. How should they know?

5. And from whom should they hear the news?

c. Who should I tell first – second – third, etc?

d. What should I let them know?

1. How much information?

2. Let them see how it unfolded.
3. If it is your spouse, they should be part of the decision, not told after the fact.

e. **When should I let them know?**

1. Some people need to know when the decision is a possibility.

2. Others should know after the decision is made, not when it is tentative.

3. If you are seeking counsel, you don’t make the decision and then ask someone how they feel about it.

f. **How should I let them know?**

1. Twitter
2. Instagram
3. Facebook
4. Text
5. Email
6. Phone call
7. Face to face

g. Bro. Townsend showed me a cartoon:

1. Man comes to door with flowers.

2. Woman answers the door and says, “Don’t you check your email? We broke-up.

3. Sad but true.

h. I like email for a written record of who said, what, but too often in our day – a lack of courage keeps us from talking face to face.

i. Pardon the grammar, but,

   1. **Way too many people**
   2. **say way too much,**
   3. **way too often,**
   4. **about way too many things,**
5. to way too many people.

j. When Nehemiah had a burden to rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem, he still had a process to go through.

k. Nehemiah prayed and fasted.

MEDIA

(Neh 1:4 KJV) “And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,”

l. Nehemiah needed the permission of the King, and in time, the Lord opened the door for Nehemiah to speak to the King.

m. Because of Nehemiah’s wise process, look how it turned out:

NO MEDIA

(Neh 2:1–9 KJV) “¶ And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

"Neh 2:2" Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

"Neh 2:3" And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

"Neh 2:4" Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

"Neh 2:5" And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchres, that I may build it.

1. NOTICE NEXT THAT THE KING HAD QUESTIONS.

"Neh 2:6" And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.
"Neh 2:7" Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;

"Neh 2:8" And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

"Neh 2:9" ¶ Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me."

n. Because of the respect Nehemiah showed and the process by which he implemented the decision, the Lord gave him favor and gave him even more than he requested.

o. Nehemiah received:

1. permission
2. provision
3. protection –
4. power (authority) to get the job done.

p. I’ve seen people get their requests turned down because of their attitude – and also because of a poor process.

q. Ethics – respect – trust are important.

r. You say – well if I tell them, they will oppose me. I’ll just do it and get forgiveness.

s. It is NEVER easier to get forgiveness than it is to get permission because acting without the approval of those in authority is unethical.

1. REPEAT THIS POINT.
2. When you act in this manner, you lose credibility.
3. You lose respect.
4. You may lose your job.
5. You lose the favor of God who established the principle of authority.

t. The end does just justify the means. The end regulates the means.

u. Stubborn – self-willed people who do not trust God or the people who are in leadership by-pass the proper processes.

v. If God is in it and if you are wise, the answer will almost always be YES.

w. If the answer from those in authority is NO, you need to submit, even if you wonder why.

   1. It may be a matter of timing.
   2. It may be a matter of submission.
   3. It may be that you are not ready.
   4. It may be that the situation is not ready.

   1. (Pam Smoak – Tanzania. The Lord spoke to me about that when we were in Bible College on Chorale tour.)

x. Paul obeyed the “bad” advice of his elders and it turned out badly for him in the short-run but ultimately, the will of God was accomplished.

y. When it comes to the process of sharing the decision you have made, you should ask yourself:

   1. “In this decision, what do the people to whom I am accountable need to know?”
   2. Should they be helping shape the decision?
   3. Am I willing to listen to their input and advice?

z. Are you presenting the decision in such a way to allow people time to absorb, process, accept, buy-in to this decision?
aa. If you are asking for advice are you “selling” one side of the equation to get what you want or are you presenting balancing factors to get the best decision?

bb. Processes are very important to making wise decisions.

13. Review 10 Points

1. Principles
2. Purpose
3. Priorities
4. Prayer
5. Peace of God
6. Precedent
7. Perspective of Counsel
8. People
9. Patience
10. Process

14. OK – But, I’ve Made a Really Bad Decision – What Now?

a. Sow good seed while you are reaping a bad harvest.

*MEDIA*

(Gal 6:7–8 KJV) “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

"Gal 6:8" For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

1. When people make bad decisions, too often, the consequences of those decisions discourage them and they feel like they are serving a life-sentence.
2. While you are reaping the harvest of wild oats as the consequences of bad decisions, you can be planting seeds of blessing by making right decisions.

3. In time, the good seed will grow and be reaped, just like the bad has.

b. Realize that God is at work in your life even through your bad decision.

( Jer 2:19 KJV) "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts."

(NO MEDIA)

(Jer 2:19 NLT-SE) “Your wickedness will bring its own punishment. Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the LORD your God and not to fear him. I, the Lord, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!”

1. God uses the consequences of your bad decisions to chasten into you the character of God… if you will let Him.

2. Do not give up – but do not be stubborn and continue going in the wrong direction.

c. If you are Naomi – after all the losses – come home and trust in the mercy of God.

d. If you are King Amaziah, cut your losses and get to a place of obedience to God.

1. Amaziah was a frequent violator of principles. He made bad decisions habitually.

2. A snippet of the story,
(2 Chr 25:5–10 KJV) “Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.

"2 Chr 25:6" He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

"2 Chr 25:7" But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.

"2 Chr 25:8" But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

MEDIA

"2 Chr 25:9" And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.

"2 Chr 25:10" Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

3. Amaziah was worried about the money he had invested. It was going to be a loss.

4. The prophet told him that the Lord is able to give you MUCH more that what you are losing.

5. There are times when you should just cut your losses and do the right thing.

   1. Break off the relationship. Friendship or romance.

   2. Get out of the business deal the best way you can. Ethically and legally.

   3. Cut your ties with those who are pulling you into a web of failure and sin.
6. Listen – you made a mistake similar to the one made by Amaziah, because you did not trust God.

7. You did not believe His way was best.

8. You did not believe that He would provide for you if you honored His Word and biblical principles.

9. But, now – stop dead in your tracks – make it right – fire the mercenaries – cut your losses and move on.

e. Prodigal Son or Daughter

NO MEDIA

(Luke 15:17–19 KJV) “And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

"Luke 15:18" I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

"Luke 15:19" And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."

1. Come to yourself – wake up.

2. Transform from GIVE me to MAKE me.

3. Come home to your Heavenly Father.

4. Choose to be a servant in your Father’s house rather than a son in the pig pen.

5. You might be surprised that mercy will meet you when you make a wise decision.

NO MEDIA

(Luke 15:20–24 KJV) “And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

"Luke 15:21" And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.
"Luke 15:22" But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

"Luke 15:23" And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

"Luke 15:24" For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

f. **Herod** – don’t be like him.

1. **He was sorry** – but responded to peer pressure and bound himself to impulsive statement.

NO MEDIA

(Mark 6:21–28 KJV) “And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

"Mark 6:22" And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, **Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt**, and I will give it thee.

"Mark 6:23" And he sw bare unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

"Mark 6:24" And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, **The head of John the Baptist**.

"Mark 6:25" And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

"Mark 6:26" And the king was exceeding sorry; **yet for his oath’s sake, and for their sakes which sat with him**, he would not reject her.

"Mark 6:27" And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

"Mark 6:28" And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.”

g. **Pilate** – Don’t be like him – would not listen to the voice of his wife – who was right.
1. Pilate’s was the Roman governor who gave the orders for the death of Jesus Christ.

2. His wife had a dream about Jesus.

NO MEDIA

(Matt 27:19–24 KJV) “When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

"Matt 27:20" But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

"Matt 27:21" The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

"Matt 27:22" Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

"Matt 27:23" And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

"Matt 27:24" When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.”

3. On more than one occasion, I have been blessed by the voice of my wife.

4. There are times I did not listen and seldom has she been wrong when she was acting in her spiritual intuition.

5. God puts people in your life to watch your back and cover your blind spots.

6. Listen to that trusted, familiar voice of reason.

h. REPENT

1. About face – change of mind.

2. The first step to salvation and the first step to reversing a bad decision is to change your mind.
3. Ask for God’s forgiveness and his mercy.

15. Concluding Statements

a. The blessings of God come to us when we make right decisions.

b. God will not bless our disobedience to His Word, for that would violate biblical principles.

c. No one can prevent the blessings of God in our lives when we obey His Word.

d. God wants to bless us, but the choices we make determine the blessings of God.

END