

Decision Making Key Men's 2008

Personal Introduction

Overview:

1. The Word of God.
2. The Witness of the Spirit.
3. The Word of Circumstances.

PART 1: The formula.

1. The Word of God.

“Am I in the Word?”

Do I have a daily intake of God's word? James 4:3, Romans 8:28, 29, Matt 6:10, Jn 7:16, 17.

Am I praying? i.e. Is the communication going back and forth between God and me?

Luke 22:39-46.

What can we learn about decision making from this passage?

- A. vs. 39- “as usual”-- It was a habit.
- B. vs. 40- prayed against “temptation”.
- C. vs. 41- stones throw away—Some prayer is by itself.
- D. vs. 42- prayed for God to shut the door.
- E. vs. 43- We will be strengthened.
- F. vs. 44- to pray more earnestly.
- G. vs. 45- In the decision process we are in, maybe only we can understand.
- H. vs. 46- Don't be discouraged!

When do I pray? Where is my garden of Gethsemane?

In our regular course of message intake, reading, study and prayer--scripture will come to mind that will give you guidance.

2. The Witness of the Spirit.

A. Do I have an impression of what the HS wants me to do?

B. Meditation.

Solomon—Ecc. 12:9, 10

Mary—Luke 2:51

David—Ps. 119: 15, 78, 97

C. Some decisions you make ahead of time.

(1) Morality. Joseph and Potiphar's Wife Gen 39: 6-10

(a). vs. 8 he refused.

(b). vs. 9 wicked thing and sin against God.

(c). vs. 10 day after day tempted—refused to be with her.

(d). vs. 12 ran from her.

(e). vs. 19, 20 consequence of obedience was prison

(2) Honesty. Prov 11:1

(a). Cheat. Prov 11:3

(b). Good Name. Ecc 7:1

3. The World of Circumstances.

A. I often pray for God to slam the door shut?

In my weakness and rush, I want to open it up again. (Balaam's Example)

(1). vs 8 Delay

(1). vs 19 "What else?"

(2). vs. 32 "Is our way reckless?"

(3). 2 Peter 2:15, 16—His name became a synonym for getting off track.

B. Does the decision make practical sense?

C. Seek Godly counsel including your wife. Where does the HS dwell now?

Answer: In the life of every believer...sometimes the wise counsel of a fellow believer can be the "HS" for you that day.

Value of a mentor:

- (1).Prov 27:17 As Iron sharpens Iron.
- (2) Prov 13:10 Take advice
- (3) I Kings 3:5-15 Solomon asks for Wisdom.
- (4) Matt 26:39 X puts himself under God's Authority.
- (5) Have I put myself under authority?

PART 2: Examples

1. Examples of Significant Family Decisions. By writing it down on paper, you see the pros and cons more clearly.

- A. Not Going to Africa.
- B. Drew's College Choice.
- C. Dominion/Timberlake.

2. Examples of Small Decisions:

3. Warnings: (Decision making scenarios to avoid.)

A. Quick decisions:

- (1) Saul's example. I Sam 13:5-14. vs.13 acted foolishly
- (2) Buying house in Yukon.
- (3) Esau and Jacobs Birth rite. Gen 25: 29-34. When you are physically, tired, hungry or sick don't make the decision.

B. Angry decisions. I Sam 14:24-30. Saul makes a foolish oath.

C. Wrong Decisions. What do you do if the decision you make is wrong? (I have a long list of these!)

- (1). God can use our bad decisions for his glory.
- (2). Error in Judgment.
- (3). Others' mistake that impacts you.

(4). Math Mistake. Ecc 9:11 Don't beat yourself up. Pray and move on.

4. Keep a "lessons learned" file.

A. Proves God's faithfulness and answers to prayer. Changing the seemingly impossible. Daniel 2:1-19.

(1). vs. 14 "wisdom and tact"

(2). He had laid the ground work in chapter 1:9

(3). vs. 16 "asked the king for time" God is not in a rush.

(4). vs. 17 seek counsel with his godly friends.

(5). vs. 19 "During the night" evidently he had the peace of mind that God would help him and he went to sleep!

B. Realize that there is "no new thing under the sun". History will repeat itself over and over again. Ecc 3:15. So be ready to take action.

Examples.

Conclusion and Application.

Africa Project-August of 2005

Pro

Con

The Work

- a. The farm does make a difference to the local people.
- b. New and exciting project with something very different.
- c. Can I make a difference to the people involved?
 - 1. Grahame. He would say yes: although it's hard to read the British persona.
 - 2. Calvin. He would say yes.
 - 3. Jim. He would say I big yes and that it is critical to the success of the project.
- d. Possibly make more money.

1. Being so far away, they will likely make decisions b/f I have time to react. If they make the decision anyway, what is the point in of me being involved?

d. Will likely have to wait until farm is profitable. If? >10 years for a significant bonus

My Family

- a. Could take one or more family members w/ me in the summer as interns. Maturation and college resume. Drew computer help. Dylan--begin to understand engineering.
- b. Positive for ministry to local people and foreman.

a. Huge -ive being gone from home 8-12 weeks a year during critical time of boys teenage years.

Felt more positive about the project after going. Nato experience and AWANA leader on plane.

Did not feel totally safe on the farm.

Drew College Decision Process Feb 2007

<u>Topic</u>	<u>OC +</u>	<u>OC -</u>	<u>LeT +</u>	<u>LeT -</u>
1. Music/Arts	Great program with additional training possible. Plays, touring with group possible.			LeT singers. Less growth but more leadership possibilities earlier.
2. Social	More even men/women ratio.			Men/women ratio of 3:1.
3. Distance	Close to home, able to see family more readily. Keep job at church. See signing activities.		Away from home teaches independence, 'real world' skills. Chances are you won't live in OKC whole life.	
4. Academics.	Dept uses latest ideas.		Computer department bigger, more established. Competitions, interface with other different depts.	
5. School Environment		More regional flavor.	Rub shoulders with people around nation/world. Paul (all things to all men) and SC Lewis type thinking.	
6. Scholarship	Including the music scholarship about the same as Let.	Without the music scholarship less than LeT.	Significant/powerful tool of Scholarship is far reaching to Alumni/ resume after school. This will open doors to interview w/ companies nation wide, summer internships, bank loans (when you are ready for your own company) etc.	
7. Spiritual		Doctrine problems with baptism, exclusivity.	Missions minded, believe like we do.	

Other comments:

1. Financial. Lord has blessed so that education at each school can be had with no debt.
2. Financial. Oklahoma scholarship of \$1,500.
3. 25 years out it does not matter where you went to school or what you studied. Ecc 8:15

Timberlake/Dominion Decision Process March 2007

Dominion

Timberlake

The Work

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Design build, I decide A/E, many trades. | 1. Bass Pro account. Frustration with Bass Pro way--changes orders. |
| 2. I work directly for the owner. | 2. Say that they will create department that I can run design/build. |
| 3. Shower at lunch. (more time with family). | 3. No shower. (Harder to find workout time.) |
| 4. Travel, but more on my schedule. Some overseas travel. | 4. Travel, more not on my schedule heavier at the end of the job. |
| 5. Compensation--about the same, Dominion not as generous? | 5. About the same, Timberlake more generous? |
| 6. More risk because I am in charge of my own work. | 6. Less risk, reliance on others who are less competent or hardworking. |
| 7. Pick own superintendent, can't work with Kenneth. | 7. Superintendent is assigned. |
| 8. Smaller, more profitable jobs. | 8. Larger higher profile jobs. |
| 9. Possible changes after 3 years. Risk of Calvin/JD conflict? | 9. Steady, large probably out-of-town jobs. |
| 10. My opinion matters more. | 10. My opinion matters less. |
| 11. Less stress--individual expectations only. | 11. More stress--corporate type structure. |