

**FAITH AND WORK:
A PRACTICAL THEOLOGY OF WORK**

The Value of Work: Decision Making and the
Connection of:
Spiritual/Personal/Work Life
Case Studies
Part III

Week 6 2

- I. Housekeeping
- II. Questions: Yours and ours
- III. Connections
- IV. Key terms
 - A. Theology
 - B. Philosophy
 - C. Work
- V. Value of Work
- VI. Case Studies
- VII. Lessons Learned
- VIII. God's Will and Guidance
- IX. Decision Making
- X. Key Resources

Our Week 4-5 Topics

Today's Topics:
Wrapping up TOW, Decision Making,
And God's Guidance

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I Our Negative Case Studies 3

- A. Saul - Covered last week
 1. Chosen by . . . 1 Samuel 9:15ff
 2. Called to . . . 1 Samuel 9:16
 3. Blessed/Equipped by God
 4. Skill set, expertise - 1 Samuel 11:11; 13:1-7; 14:34; 15:24-31
 5. Flaws/Sin - 1 Samuel 13:8-11, 12-13; 14:24ff; 15:3-21; 28:5-25 and so on
 6. Consequences
 - a. For him - 1 Samuel 15:22-23; 26-31; 34-35; 31:1ff
 - b. For others - 1 Samuel 15:26-32 and 31:2

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Ia Our Negative Case Studies **4**

B. David

1. Chosen by . . . 1 Samuel 16:1-5
2. Called to . . . 1 Samuel 16:14-22;
3. Blessed/Equipped by God – 1 Samuel
4. Skill set, expertise – 1 Samuel 17:24-50; 18:1-5; 22:1-5; 23:1-14; 2 Samuel 1:1-27; 2 Samuel 8; 2 Samuel 12:1-15; 2 Samuel 17:1-29
5. Flaws/Sin – 1 Samuel 9-13; 2 Samuel 11; 2 Samuel 12; 2 Samuel 13-15; 12; 2 Samuel 18:16-33; 2 Samuel 24:1-9
6. Consequences
 - a. For him – 2 Samuel 15:13-16:23; 2 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 24:10-15; 1 Kings 1
 - b. For others – 2 Samuel 12:16-23; 2 Samuel 18:1-15; 2 Samuel 24:10-15; 1 Kings 1:1-5

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Ib Our Negative Case Studies – Continued **5**

C. Solomon

1. Chosen by . . . 1 Chronicles 22:9; 1 Kings 1
2. Called to . . . 1 Chronicles 22:6-16;
3. Blessed/Equipped by God –
4. Skill set, expertise – 1 Chronicles 22:9; 1 Kings 3:1-9
5. Flaws/Sin – Deut 17:16-20; 1 Kings 10:14-29; 1 Kings 11:1-8
6. Consequences
 - a. For him – 1 Kings 11:9-41
 - b. For others – 1 Kings 12:16-24

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Iic Our Positive Case Studies **6**

A. Daniel – Discussed last week + #4

1. Chosen by . . . Daniel 1:1-7
2. Called to . . . Daniel 1:3-4; 1:17-21; 2:14-19; 2:46-49; 4:18-19; 5:13-23; 6:1-5 & 28; 7:1; 9:1-4; 10:1-2; 11:1
3. Blessed/Equipped by God – Daniel 1
4. Skill set, expertise – Daniel 1:17-21; 2:14-19; 4:18-19; 5:13-23; 6:1-5 & 28; 7:1; 9:1-4; 10:1-2; 11:1
5. Difference – Daniel 1:8-16; 2:26-28; 5:17; 6:10 & 22; 9:3; 10:2; 11:1
 - a. He knew what he was going into
 - b. Babylon was/is historical the picture of evil
6. Difficulties – Daniel 1:1-5; 2:24; 3:8-30; 4:33; 5:31; 6:6-9; 10:2-5.
7. Consequences
 - a. For him
 - b. For others

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II Our Positive Case Studies

B. Nehemiah

1. Chosen by . . . Nehemiah 1:1-4
2. Called to . . . Nehemiah 2:4-8
3. Blessed/Equipped by God – Nehemiah
4. Skill set, expertise – Nehemiah 1:11;
5. Difference – Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:9-16 & 17-20; 4:9-14 & 23; 5:6-13 & 14-19; 6:14; 13:30
6. Difficulties – Nehemiah 2:1-3; 2:11-16; 4:1-14 & 23; 5:1-5; 6:1-13; 10:28-34; 13 all and verse 27.
7. Consequences
 - a. For him
 - b. For others

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X. Lessons Learned – Connection of Spiritual/Personal/and Work Life

A. Understanding Guidance

1. Misunderstand by ignoring the Word – John 1:1, Heb 1:2

B. Dealing with Expectations about God’s Will

1. Called to Maturity – interdependence – Col 1:28

C. Our Reasons for Seeking God’s Will

1. He knows our heart – Matt 10:26

D. It’s “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction” – Starting Well Isn’t Sufficient

1. Inherently a long haul – Hebrews 12:1-6

E. And . . . ? (Our Lessons)

1. Discussion

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III God’s Will and Guidance – Execution

“The Doing Paradigm”

Simple	Complex
Easy	Hard

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IVd God's Will and Guidance and Decision Making

E. What is "Normal" Guidance?

1. Begin with His Word and Commands
 - a. Can be voices or visions, but seldom
 - b. It's more than God speaking, it's the Word, insights, Counsel, etc.
2. Aligned with God's Covenant/Promises
3. Context – It's about others and bigger issues
4. Still needs to be tested
5. Gideon's fleece is not an appropriate example
 - a. He already knew God's plan
 - b. It was one time
 - c. It was God's grace to an immature believer

F. It's important

1. To encourage us and minimize discouragement
2. To Understand Christ's Purpose – Eph 5:25-27; Col 1:21-22
3. To Enjoy our lives – Col 1:9-14

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V Decision Making Paradigm

V. Decision Making Paradigm**

1. Check your foundation
 - a. Where is your relationship with God?
2. What are You Reading
 - a. Time in the Word
 - b. Hearing the Word
3. To Whom are You Talking?
 - a. God
 - b. Counsel
4. Check your path
 - a. It's often incremental – Small choices matter
5. Remember Your Commitment
 - a. It takes time

** See Reference Page, especially – Friesen, Packer, Sittser.

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Va Decision Making Paradigm - Continued

V. Decision Making Paradigm**

6. Remember Your Freedom
 - a. You may choose
7. Potential Impact on Others
 - a. Thinking ahead
8. Decide/Chose Your Action
 - a. Act
9. Live with It
 - a. Understand it may be right and hard
 - b. It may be wrong and easy

** See Reference Page, especially – Friesen, Packer, Sittser.

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VI Key Resources – Books 16

I. Theology of Work

- A. Richard H. Bainton, *Christendom: A Short History of Christianity and Its Impact on Western Civilization Vol 1*, Harper Collins, 1966.
- B. Darrell Cosden, *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work*, Henderson Publishers, 2006.
- C. Fr. Robert A. Sirico, *The Entrepreneurial Vocation*, Acton Institute, 2001.
- D. R. Paul Stevens, *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*, Wm B. Eerdmans, May 31, 2012.
- E. Miroslav Volf, *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*, Wipf & Stock Pub, Reprint edition (April 27, 2001).

II. Guidance/Decision Making

- A. Gary Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God: A Biblical Alternative to the Traditional View*, Multnomah Press, 1980.
- B. W. Phillip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, Zondervan, April 29, 2007.
- C. J.I. Packer, *Knowing God, Thou Our Guide*, Chapter 20, IVP Press, 1977.
- D. J.I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom, *God's Will: Finding Guidance for Everyday Decisions*, Baker Book House, 2012.
- E. Jerry Sittser, *The Will of God as a Way of Life: How to Make Every Decision with Peace and Confidence*, Zondervan 2004.
- F. Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*, HarperCollins, 1998.

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Our Continuing Schedule 17

A. This week

- 1. Will post slides, etc. online this week.
- 2. I'll email where to find

B. Josh Returns and Discusses Creativity

- 1. Two weeks

C. Spring Break – March

D. Jim Returns and Addresses Specific Questions

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