

Understanding God's Will – Lesson 6

“The Weigh Station Sign: Counting the Cost”

I. Introduction

- a. The Builder (Luke 14:28-30) – Jesus gives a great illustration about a builder who decided to building without first determining the cost.
 1. This story gives us a graphic understanding of the dangers we face when we fail to plan
 - The builder overspent his budget in time and materials and then faced the ridicule of others because his lack of preparation was clear to others.
 - We should be careful to always think things through to ensure we are making wise and prudent decisions.
 2. The King (Luke 14:31-32)
 - In this story the king has to count up the cost of war, surrender or a peace treaty.
 - We are often faced with absolute decisions: to do something or not to move forward.
 3. Combination of the principles (Proverbs 20:18)



II. Different Kinds of Decisions

- a. Indefinite Timeline – Luke 14:28-30
 1. There was no danger in taking more time to think and plan.
 2. It is a question of should I build it or not build.
 3. Rushed decisions can often be bad or ill advised because we have not taken the time to factor all the outcomes or potential stakeholders.

- b. Immediate Timeline (Luke 14:28-30)
 - 1. The decision must be made and done so quickly.
 - 2. This requires activity or certain doom.

III. Learning How to Count the Cost

- a. Identify the Needs
 - 1. The man building the tower had to determine how much money the project required. How much materials; wood, brick, mortar would needed to be calculated. And after all that was determined he still needed to determine manpower.
 - 2. The king going into battle had to determine the manpower and military equipment needed to launch a war.
- b. Identify the Resources
 - 1. This stage in the process requires that we determine what things we have at our disposal at this time or in the near future. The builder had to determine how much he had on hand at the time.
 - 2. The king going into battle similarly needed to gauge what was available to him contemporarily.
- c. Factoring Time:
 - 1. We must plan to plan. This means gather information and evaluate it before the deadline.
- d. Evaluating other Options
 - 1. Too often in this process we close our minds off to the other possibilities.
 - 2. Faith comes in during this part, because it often takes God to show us the avenues that were not clearly presented at the start.
 - 3. Moses was faced with a great dilemma, and God helped him see another escape route. (Exodus 14)

IV. Barriers to Obeying This Sign

a. Indecisiveness

1. Trying to be perfect will definitely lead to indecisiveness.
2. Attempting to please everyone will lead to indecisiveness and
3. Agrippa's indecisiveness is a great lesson in waiting or putting off a critical decision. (Acts 25-26:32)

b. Decisions by Default

1. We often wait too long that the decision is made for us rather than us making a faithful decision.
2. Becoming painted into a corner based on circumstances can make us resentful or feel cheated.
 - Not having options in the type of car because we lack finances.
 - Missing out on a promotion because we did not apply in time.

c. Letting the majority rule

1. Numbers 13:25-33 – The majority decide they would not inhabit the land God promised them because of Giants in the land.
2. Because they listened to the majority report a generation died in the wilderness, and the nation was delayed from venturing forward.

d. Faithless Decisions.

1. Exodus 14 & Judges 7 – is a great example of making a decision to move forward despite how difficult the task looked.
2. Sometimes God wants us to be daring in our choices knowing that when we line up with his will for our lives great things can and will happen.