

Making Decisions to Achieve Success

Text: **Luke 5:1-11**

October 9, 2016

Making Decisions to Achieve Success

□ Seem like the right decision at that moment?

☞ “But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was amazed, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken; and so were also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all, and followed him.” **Luke 5:8-11**

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□ Seem like the right decision at that moment?

☞ “And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all, and followed him.” **Luke 5:11**

- ☞ Had heard Jesus teaching
- ☞ Recognized and acknowledged Him as Lord
- ☞ Demonstrated the character required to make the right decisions that achieve success in life

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□ Character that achieves true success

- ☞ Faith
- ☞ Integrity
- ☞ Moral excellence
- ☞ Patience
- ☞ Commitment
- ☞ Humility

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□ Let's begin our decision making process with a study of the Bible... our guide to true success **Psalms 19:7-11**

☞ “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” **Psalms 119:105**

☞ “Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.” **Psalms 27:11**

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□ Pray for guidance and wisdom

☞ “O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*” **Jeremiah 10:23**

☞ “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” **Proverbs 14:12**

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□ Pray for guidance and wisdom

↳ “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.”
James 1:5

↳ “And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and **spread it before the LORD.**” **2 Kings 19:14**

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□ Seek wise counsel... and follow it

↳ “And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people? 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.”
(continued) 1 Kings 12:6-8

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□ Seek wise counsel... and follow it

↳ “**But he forsook the counsel of the old men** which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men that were grown up with him, that stood before him.” **1 Kings 12:6-8**

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□ Consider short term versus long term benefit/impact

↳ “But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was amazed, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken; and so were also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their boats to land, **they left all, and followed him.**” **Luke 5:8-11**

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□ Consider short term versus long term benefit/impact

↳ Secular history records that, possibly excluding the apostle John and Judas Iscariot, all of the apostles were martyred for their decision and commitment to follow Jesus

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□ Consider short term versus long term benefit/impact

↳ “... But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things: but now here he is comforted and thou art in anguish.”
Luke 16:22-25

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□ Consider short term versus long term benefit/impact

↳ “And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?** So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” **Luke 12:19-21**

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□ Consider short term versus long term benefit/impact

↳ “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”
Matthew 6:19-20

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□ Count the cost

↳ “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, **and counteth the cost**, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.” **Luke 14:28-30**

↳ **Count the cost for yourself, your health, your family, your influence**

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□ Count the cost

↳ “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**”
Matthew 16:24-26

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□ Honestly examine priorities

↳ “And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.” **(continued)**
Luke 9:57-62

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□ Honestly examine priorities

↳ “And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, **suffer me first** to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; **but let me first** go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
Luke 9:57-62

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□ Honestly examine priorities

↳ “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved **this present world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.” **2 Timothy 4:10**

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□ Honestly examine priorities

↳ “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and **his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.” **Matthew 6:33**

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□ The crowning moment of true success...

“Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord”
Matthew 25:31
