

"I Being On The Way The Lord Led Me"

(Discerning and Understanding God's Will For Your Life)

Genesis 24:1-67

MBC:AM; 07-18-10; 0149

S1 Introduction: This morning we enter into a true adventure of another sort: finding our way in life; knowing how to make good decisions. Life is like a road map that gives us many choices but most of them lead to either dead ends or serious consequences that scar us for the rest of our lives. There is no shortage of opinions out there of how to get where we want to go, in fact even Christians want us to know that God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives. We may restate that as, "Everyone else has a wonderful plan for our lives." There comes a time when we are forced to put our foot down and make our own decisions. I would venture to say there is not one person in here this morning that would outright lie and say you never made a bad decision in your life. Our lives are in a collection, an art gallery, if you will of bad choices and bad decisions. O we've tried our best to remove the paintings from the gallery or at least cover them up, but our lives are a testament to the choices we've made. The Word of God tells us that as our days; so shall our strength be. In other words, we are what we eat; we are what we experience; we are who we hang out with. Unlike the bumper sticker that suggests that life somehow just happens, the truth is we make it happen. Few of us are true victims of our environment or our upbringing. We can make a choice to either wither under the test or to turn the test into a testimony. Here's the BIG IDEA this morning beloved: God wants you to know His will more than you want to know it. He has already revealed a good portion of His will to us in His Word, if we would only take the time to read it.

S2

- **General Revelation: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1-4**
- **Special Revelation: II Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 1:1-4; I Peter 1:19-21**

S3 1. The Will of the Father. **Genesis 24:1-9** **READ.** *(Origin of the idea and etymology of the word, testimony – (testes).* Swear on my life and the life of my children. Most of us are ignorant of God's will because we don't read the testimony He left us. This is one reason we are all gathered here this morning to be instructed in the way we should go. God expects us to live lives of obedience to His revealed will. We've all heard of situations where people kill in Jesus name and testify that God told them to do it. No, He didn't. You got the testimony wrong. We blame God for much of what is our own mess. It's not God's fault we are all so screwed up.

S4 A. Know the Person of God and the Word of God. 24:1-9

SEEK TO KNOW GOD and HIS HOLY WORD.

- 1.) God's Sovereign Will
- 2.) God's Revealed Will: **I Cor. 7:39; II Corinthians 6:14; I Thess. 4:3, 5:12-23**
- 3.) God's Permissive Will

S5 B. Be Obedient to What You Know and Understand.

SEEK GOD'S WISDOM ABOVE ALL.

Solomon in the book of Proverbs said this over and over and over again, to seek wisdom. There is knowledge: to gain information, there is understanding, that is a gift from God, and ultimately there is wisdom. To gain a heart of wisdom is to practically apply to our lives what we know and understand. I am not saying here to be true to yourself, your own ideas, your own perception of what is truth or reality, I am saying we have to be true to God Himself. Knowing God's word requires us to keep His Word but with the right heart attitude.

S6 C. Hear and Heed the Godly Counsel of Parents (others) SEEK GODLY COUNSEL.

Read Proverbs 1:1-33; 11:14; Isaiah 55:8-11

S7 D. Submit to Those Over You in Authority. Romans 13: SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY.

Seek to know God and His Word. Seek God's Wisdom above all else. Seek Godly Counsel. Submit to authority.

2. The Witness of the Servant. Genesis 24:10-49

S8 E. Saturate the Whole Process in Prayer. 24:10-14; Mark 1:35 KNEEL IN FERVENT PRAYER.

Satan trembles when he sees the weakest of saints on his knees.

S9 F. Look for Qualities that Reveal Character. 24:15-20

Joshua 1:1-9; Romans 14:13-23; Philippians 2:1-4; James 3:17

SEEK PROVEN CHARACTER:

DOES IT CHALLENGE FAITH AND CALL FOR COURAGE?

S10 G. Study Silently, Think Deeply, Proceed Cautiously. 24:21-27

Think of the unintended consequences. **Psalm 27:14, 46:10, 62:5; Acts 1:4, 12-14; Philippians 4:7**

REST IN PEACE:

DOES IT CLASH WITH YOUR FLESH? WAIT ON GOD.

S11 H. Notice Relationships Among Family Members. 24:28-32

LOOK FOR ESTABLISHED PATTERNS.

3. The Willingness of the Bride. Genesis 24:50-60

S12 I. Determine if There is a Mutual Interest in Spiritual Matters. 24:33-60

GAIN POWERFUL AGREEMENT.

4. The Welcome of the Bridegroom. Genesis 24:61-67

S13 J. Establish a Solid Foundation for Marriage. 24:61-67

LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES: DOES IT GIVE GOD GLORY AND FURTHER HIS KINGDOM?

S14-23 MOMENT OF DECISION: