

Processing life through the Word of Life

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

As Christians, we sometimes pray: "O Lord, show me what to do in this situation..." And we should pray that prayer as we earnestly seek God's guidance and direction in both the large and minute details of life. However, we fail as God's people when we assume that the Lord hasn't answered by showing us what we should do in every situation. Yes, please don't misunderstand what I am trying to convey. God speaks into our lives and to the uniqueness of our individual circumstances. He still puts dew on the fleece when we ask Him for a clear sign (Judges 6:37). He still leads us with specific "Thus saith the Lord" arrows shot from heaven to our souls. But what I want you to see here is that God has already given us some basic steps for finding His will and walking according to it in every situation we will ever face.

For example, the Lord has told us that His will and desire for our life in Him is to be holy, joyful, prayerful, and thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 3:3; 5:16-18). His will is for us to believe in Jesus for salvation (2 Peter 3:9). He tells us to trust Him at His Word (Proverbs 3:5-6). He tells us to love others as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39). He tells us to do right, love mercy, and to walk in a humble way (Micah 6:8). He tells us to fear and respect Him as Almighty God (Deuteronomy 5:29). He tells us to go and proclaim the gospel to all of creation (Mark 16:15). And the list can go on... As we take the Bible and what God has already spoken, and we allow the Word to act as a filter in which we run our thoughts, decisions, and actions through. Without even realizing it, our prayerful heart begins to take more of the form of: "Lord, I know what you want me to do in this situation, please help me do it."

What does this look like? Whatever you face, before you act, prayerfully consider some of these questions.

- What is the next right thing to do?
- How will my actions bring honor or dishonor to the name of Christ?
- How can I fulfill the great commission of going and making disciples of all nations in this situation?
- How can I seek to do everything in love?
- How will this affect those around me, as I seek to die to self and put others first?

I truly believe that if we will learn to process life through the lens of what God has already told us about Himself and what He wants for our lives as His people, then we will begin to see that God really does speak into and lead our lives. In fact, He has already spoken. And if we will take Him at His Word and seek to shape our actions of faith around His promises. Then God's blessing and favor will go before us like the dawning of the morning sunrise, and we will truly understand the meaning that the psalmist penned: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis