Everyday Jesus – **wk 3 – Walking in Wisdom**

**Does Jesus invade our life – home, work, school, social life?**

**God and the rest of the week! Everyday Jesus! Monday thru Saturday**

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom (will) and his righteousness, (way) and all these things will be given to you as well. (Jesus is the lens we see all our life)**

**What are God’s ways, what is His will and His way?**

**I like to think and pray about what God would have for me – my dreams. How can I know God’s will, plans, & wisdom? How can I be in the middle of His will? Or, know if it’s just my will?**

**We think of God’s will as kind of like a corn maze - $45 a person for 45 minutes of misery. One path to the end and if we take the wrong turn we are destined for despair - stuck and confused. Fated for failure.**

**What does it mean “the will of God” – or plan of God?**

**God’s Decretive (decreed/sovereign) will - Lord of all / always in charge**

**(Ephesians 1:3-6, Romans 11:1-29, Gen 17:1; Isaiah 41:3, Job 42:2; Ps 115:3; Jer 32:27, Hebrews 6:18, II Timothy 2:13, James 1:13)**

**Isaiah 46:8 “Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. 9 ...I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’**

**God is accomplishing his will – always – He is sovereign.**

**This is a reflection of God’s character at work.**

**God’s Preceptive (moral / revealed) will - What God has commanded. His will is from His love and - for our good and God’s glory (even if we don’t like them). This is God’s word.**

**Exodus - 10 commandments… / Micah - love mercy, do justice, walk humbly / live pure lives, our character / love your neighbor**

**God’s Directive will - When God specifically leads you or guides you in life to be a certain place at a specific time – for a specific reason. (Acts 16:6-10, Acts 8:26, Acts 10:1-23, 1 Timothy 4:14) Rare moments of clarity.**

**God’s Discerned will – What should I do – where should I go? When we filter it thru God’s character & Word we can usually find His direction. But sometimes we still get confused with it – and need discernment.**

**Should I date / marry this person / sleep with this person / should I take this job / should I move / how should I spend my money – all are usually answered with the perceptive filter**

**Sometimes after the filters we still don’t know what to do. We still don’t know about that relationship, class, job, or career?**

**\*\*\* God can you just tell; me what to do?**

**\*The will of God is more a meandering path than a set of doors**

**Let’s make a deal – what is behind door #1 – 2 – 3 (one has something awesome – the other joke prizes) It is less about doors and more about paths. Conforming us into his image.**

**2 passages that teach a lot about knowing & understanding God’s will**

**Understanding God’s Plans – 4 things**

**(Taken into exile - feeling confused about their future) Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, (you are going to stay in bondage 70 yrs - suffer & struggle - then) I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. (God says, I have a plan. But you might not like it, but realize this…) 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (I have plans for you even if it doesn’t look like it) 12 Then (because of my plan to leave you there for a while…) you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (because of this trial you will seek me – and) 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (sometimes we don’t seek with all our heart – it is a partial heart) 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." (God says, don’t worry - I have a plan)**

**1 – God has good plans for you**

**29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

**Good plans, great future, hopeful future. This is God character.**

**He does not despise you, you’re not his experiment guinea pig**

**2 – Sometimes His plans don’t happen right away – v.10**

**29:10 - "When seventy years are completed… I will come to you…”**

**How long did Jeremiah say they would have to wait? – 70yrs**

**His plans are not always our plans and may not happen now, this year, next year, in our lifetime. His timing is always right ours is often rushed**

**3 – We need to learn to make plans – v.12-13**

**29:12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

**We have a part to play, we have a role in His plan. Things don’t usually just happen, we need to learn, to plan, and do it.**

**Don’t just sit and wait for an angel to appear and tell you…**

**Proverbs 21:5 – the plans of the diligent lead to abundance**

**\*\*\* Aim at nothing and you’ll hit it every time!**

**4 – We need to find what God’s plans are – and make those our plans**

**Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you… call to me… pray to me… seek me… and 14 ..and I will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.**

**If God’s plans become our plans – when we align to His revealed will it changes our everyday life.**

**Understanding God’s Will – 4 things**

**Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom (the filter of God’s character and Word) and applying your heart to understanding (applying it to your life) - 3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.**

**1. God is not trying to hide his will**

**We often see His will like a cosmic Easter egg hunt – to discover His will and plans. Colder – colder / warmer – warmer. That mentality actually causes us to miss the will of God.**

**If we will turn to His Word and seek His understanding of things – we will find His will. You can know it and find it.**

**We will not know everything - somethings God does not reveal everything. But what he does revel are ours to know. Duet 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.**

**James writing to a church dealing w/ persecution and pain says, James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.**

**\*\* God is not hiding his wisdom and will – hide and seek.**

**This passage says – “if you accept my words, store up the commands, turn your ear to wisdom, apply it - if you will call out for insight, cry for understanding, if you will look for as you would a treasure… then you will find understanding” (IF you will call out / cry out / look for it – you will find it…!)**

**2. God is asking us to passionately pursue His wisdom**

**Understanding that we don’t have his wisdom and desperately need it.**

**This is death to arrogant pride and self-reliance – this is real humility.**

**Desperately looking for a lost child - Noel walked out the door. Commando kicks in! what if we were desperate to know God?**

**This passage tells us you will find if you desperately seek it.**

**Proverbs 2:3 …indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (the fear of God is tightly bound to the wisdom of God)**

**3. God is inviting you to know His power and awe**

**The fear of God and understanding his will go hand in hand.**

**Common factor is every Bible hero, a deep fear of God**

**Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (more than reverence – this is deep awe of His power)**

**To now his great power and awe, and understand His ways are not your ways – and his will is good and greater than yours. That is the beginning of Wisdom. Do you have it?**

**Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds success in store for the upright, (stores up success) he is a shield to (protection of our hearts) those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.**

**Do you want your success or God’s success?**

**Do you want your protection, or God’s protection?**

**4. God wants you to prize His will over your will**

**Do you want to be in the will of God regardless of what you have? Wanting the will of God w/ little, more than outside the will of God w/ much.**

**You may have less material possessions, but have more joy Proverbs 15:16 Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.**

**Would you really want everything if it left you feeling like you have nothing? Rockefeller – asked, you’ve got so much money. How much is enough? He answered just a little but more. Material possession will never fill the soul hole.**

**The greatest treasure of all – is to walk with Jesus – to be in his will – regardless of the situation.**

**Ever notice we usually pick our will first and then God’s will when it does not turn out the way we thought – or find ourselves unfulfilled.**

**That is why - Seek first his will and way… Matt 6:33**

**Seeking His will over your will - is a Everyday Jesus event… Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.**

**God desires for you walk with him daily**

**God desires for you to daily know his character = understanding and direction**

**God desires for you to daily walk in compassion for others = joy and purpose**

**God desires for you to daily know who He says you are = peace and confidence**

**God desires for you to daily trust in Him = nothing else will satisfy your soul**

**God desires for you to daily be a person of integrity = success**

**God desires for you to daily be a person of humility = success**

**God desires for you to daily know and walk in his word = success**

**God desires for you to daily walk in purity = confidence, blessing, & intimacy**

**God desires for you to daily be generous = success and blessing, fulfillment**

**God desires for us to daily make disciples - share the hope of Jesus = purpose**

**Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, in view of God’s mercy, (God’s sovereign will, power and awe – God’s character) to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (following the reveled will of God) - this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (aligning our thinking with the God’s will and ways) Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (then you will know and discern God’s will)**

**When you become who He wants you to become – then you find you are walking in His will – and you will have direction.**

**When you become His will – you will walk in His will.**

**Problem is most do not submit or align to God’s revealed word**

**Last part - Proverbs 2:9 (After you seek his revealed word and character) Then you will understand what is right and just and fair - every good path. 10 For (His) wisdom will enter your heart, (that means it goes deep) and (His) knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. (walking in his wisdom will shield you – keep from a lot of self-inflicted wounds and foolish choices)**

**There is so much freedom in this!**

* **What should I do? (walk in His will)**
* **What if I make the wrong choice? (God is directing your path)**
* **You focus on who God wants you to become and he will direct your path!**

**4. God is ultimately shaping you to walk in wisdom and understanding**

**The waiting and trusting in God’s plan - is designed to build character, our trust in God, and to draw us to Jesus.**

**\*God is concerned more w/ who we’re becoming than what we’re doing (He uses the process of knowing His will to shape our character)**

**God cares about our choices – that is why He gave us His moral will, the Word of God – but He is more concerned with forming our character over confirming our decisions.**

**Look what happens when we do this…2 Pet. 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith (salvation is just the beginning – you cannot add to your salvation – but you can add to the life that follows salvation – add to your faith) goodness; (Compassion) and to goodness, knowledge; (Knowing Truth) 6 and to knowledge, self-control; (Holiness) and to self-control, perseverance; (patient endurance) and to perseverance, godliness; (reverent) 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; (phileo - family love) and to mutual affection, love. (Agape – powerful love) 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive (do these and you will be effective and productive) in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**God’s ultimate concern is not to get us from point A to point B – on the quickest, easiest, safest, clearest route possible. His goal for us is to know him deeply and trust him more completely.**

**The goal is for our character to take on Jesus character.**

**Wisdom ultimately is not information, a system of logic, or smart thinking – wisdom is a person. You receive true wisdom in Jesus.**

**Col 2:2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

**Your vertical in Christ – leads to horizontal in life.**

**With that in mind**

**Practical questions to ask to help you make wise BIG decisions?**

**2 Tim 3:16-17, 1 Pet 2:2-3, Pr 12:15, 15:22, 27:17, Phil 4:6-7, Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 3:34; 29:23; Matt 23:12; Luke 1:52; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5, James 1:5**

* **Have I searched what the bible has to say about this?**

**Set your heart and mind to pursue the truth of God. The more you know his Word, the more you’ll discern His voice and will.**

* **Have I sought the counsel of other believers?**
* **Have I committed this to prayer?**
* **What is my ultimate motivation?**
* **What is the wise thing to do? The mother of all questions.**

**According to God’s wisdom – how will this affect my spiritual life – more important than $$ bottom line.**

**Practical questions to ask to help you make wise DAILY decisions?**

* **Does it dishonor God? (contradict his word / standards / his being)**
* **Does it dishonor his creation that he loves? (his people/ his planet)**
* **Does it help you to Know God better? (Too much neutrals leave you empty, depressed, and apathetic)**
* **Does it help you to be a better person? (does it shape into the person God has called you to be – character – grace filled – holy)**
* **What is the wise thing to do? The mother of all questions.**

**Try it out… a job / a move / a college choice / kids issues / a movie / a band / an event / a night out / doing things with friends…**