

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 02/18/24

Text: Heb 11:8-10

Sermon: Will Massaro and Ted Rastatter/Should I Stay or Should I go?

Questions: Jerry Shiver

This week's message from Pastor's Ted and Will was dedicated to a milestone event for FRBC. For the first time, FRBC is planting a new church, Trails Church, in the north Huber Heights and south Tipp City area. The selected text focuses on Abraham's decision to obey God's calling, in faith, and go and make a home in a place he didn't know but that God promised. Once in this promised land, Abraham stayed making a permanent yet temporary home for he was looking forward to a truly permanent promised land, a city with foundations built by God. Member's of FRBC are now faced with a similar decision to go and help plant Trails Church or to stay at FRBC.

Main point: Whatever your decision, regardless the situation, look forward by faith to Jesus Christ in the promise of the coming City of God.

Questions/Discussion:

1. Take a moment and discuss how the world generally might deal with decision making. Maybe some form of analysis: risk-reward, cost-benefit, decision trees or matrix, and (probably most favored), your gut. How do these compare to what Hebrews chapter 11 says about Abraham in verse 8? Read Heb 11:1 and 2 Cor 18. What key difference do you find between the world's way of making decisions verses what scripture tells us? Can these coexist for the believer and if so, which takes precedence?
2. When making decisions, Will recommends asking yourself, am I making this decision with faith in God or out of fear because I don't trust God or to avoid a current situation? Read Est 4:10-14, Jnh 1:3, Jer 29:11. How might your decision impact God's plans? How might it impact you?
3. Will also discussed Abraham being called by God "to go". Identify and briefly discuss other biblical figures in scripture (and in more modern times) who were given a calling to do something. While we may not be audibly called by God, he does speak to us through his scripture. As believers, what is God calling us to do as individuals and as a body? Share scriptures as led.
4. Will shared Theologian Tom Schreiner's 3 steps to discern God's will: Read God's word, test your personal desires against God's word, then do whatever you want. Will also shared that faith is not a warrant for stupidity. Discuss your thoughts (and/or scripture) on these.

5. Ted pointed out that whoever takes up the call to go someplace to follow Jesus will eventually get to where they are going and they will eventually have to make the decision to stay in the place that God has put them. Discuss Ted's challenge to "Stay put well", accepting we are chosen exiles, living two realities, knowing we are just passing through yet committed while we are in this place to be permanent fixtures here. Read Heb 11:9, Mk 5:19-20, Jn 4:39-42. Why does this matter?

6. Ted also shared the difficulties we will face as we take up God's calling, whether going or staying, such as spiritual attack or the pain and suffering of living in a fallen world. Review Heb 11:10 and discuss in light of God's promise.

Ted's challenge to all: Let us be a blessing where God has put us. Let us be a blessing in our places. Though this is all temporary and passing away, let us dwell here with the intent to make an eternal difference in our neighbors and in the lives of people around us.