Wise Work — Delivery Transcript

Proverbs 6:6–11 (ESV) · Wes Terry · Sunday, March 2, 2014 · *The Thing Most Needed*

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Well, if you would take your Bible, open it up to the book of Ephesians. We're going to be in Ephesians for just a little bit before we go back to the book of Proverbs. Ephesians chapter 5. In my reading this week, I read a statement, kind of rocked my world. I had read it before, but never thought about it in relationship to what we've been thinking about. And the statement is it's your direction, not your intention, that determines your destination. It doesn't matter how much you want to be somewhere or whether you—when you're a little bitty boy or girl, and, oh, I want to be president, I want this, I want that.

Nobody wants to be president these days, but some of us, you know, thought that when you were a little kid. It doesn't matter what your intention is or what your hopes and dreams are, it's your direction that determines your destination. It's your direction, not your intention that determines where you end up in life. And I never met anyone who woke up in the morning and decided, I think I want to screw up my life today. I've never met someone when they screwed up their life that that's what they said when they woke up in the morning.

Pinky and the Brain: What do you want to do, Brain? No one says I want to ruin my life. No one says I want to ruin my financial portfolio. No one says I want to end my marriage. Nobody talks that way. Nobody plans to ruin their life, but not enough people plan not to. And so what we've been trying to do, what we'll do this morning and what we've done the past couple weeks is to try to plan not to, to think about wisdom. Not just what's moral, not just what's permissible, not just what's normal when it comes to our relationships or our finances or our workplace, but what's wise.

Because our culture is drifting. I don't know if you've noticed this. Just watch it drift. It's not the same today as it used to be in the sixties. And I'm not one of those, let's go back to the good old days kind of guy. I don't think that those days were good old days. There's no good

old days, okay? But any way you put it, we're drifting. It's kind of like—any of you ever played in the river? Your parents probably didn't let you play in the river, but if you played in the river, if you were a redneck, you watch yourself in the river, all of a sudden you look up and you're way further from camp than where you originally started.

Or the ocean. You get in the ocean and if there's a strong undertow, it'll just suck you along. And before you know it, you look up, there's mom, there's dad, they're way down there. How did you get here? And for some of us in our marriages or in our finances or in our workplace, we look up one day, we realize we're lost. We say, how did I get here? How did I only have this much money? What happened to my marriage, I thought my spouse used to love me. What happened with my kids?

Why are they acting so—why are they teenagers? And you're lost. And if we don't have a reference point, if we don't have something stationary that we can look at and say, you know what, I've gone too far. I need to get up out of the water. I need to come back. Then we will go just like the rest of our culture and we will drift and we will be exactly where normal is. But the problem is nobody wants to be normal. Normal's broke. We want to do what's wise. And our Heavenly Father who created us and who loves us wants you to experience peace.

He wants you to experience wholeness. But in order for you to experience those things, there has to be something more than just knowing what's right and wrong or moral or legal or anything like that. What happens is we have to come to a place where we know the answer to the question in light of my past experience and my current circumstances and my future hopes and dreams what's the wise thing for me to do? Especially in the area of our responsibilities or our workplace. So I want to read Ephesians 5 once again, Ephesians 5:15, and show you kind of where this series is coming out of.

Paul is the author here, writing to a church, a local church, just like us receiving a letter from someone. And he says, look carefully then how you walk or how you're living your life, not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. So what's the wise thing to do? And James 1:5, if any of you lacks wisdom, let him what? Let him ask God. God will give you wisdom. He'll give generously without reproach.

And one of the reasons we need to ask this question when it comes to our workplace is because the Bible elevates work. Maybe the best way to explain it is the Scripture's view of work was much, much different than the view of work by most other cultures when these kinds of things were written. Especially Greek culture, the famous story about the guy who pushes the rock up the hill. He gets the rock up the hill, comes back down, pushes the rock back up the hill. He gets the rock up the hill, comes back down, pushes the rock back up the hill.

I can't remember that guy's name, but that's kind of how they thought about work. Work was a drudgery, work was something that you avoid. Even in our culture today, work is something that is it's not fun. Nobody likes work. You have to get up in the morning to go to work. You have to go to work so you don't get to go home. You have to go to work instead of sleeping. It's like work is this evil thing. But in the scriptures, work is something beautiful. Work is something good. Work is something that God ordained.

Work is something that you can leverage, you leverage your work for the glory of God. Maybe the best way to think about work—because when I say work, certain people will think of work as a certain kind of thing. I want us to think about work this morning as a very large umbrella. Maybe the term vocation would be a better term. Think about your vocation. The word vocation comes from the Latin vocatio, means a call or a summons. And so you think about work, not just as a nine-to-five job, but whatever your calling in life is.

You hear people in ministry talk about this all the time. People say, I got called to ministry, or I'm called to preach. But you never hear people say, I was called to be a teacher, I'm called to be a banker, or I'm called to work at a paper mill, or I'm called to do carpentry work. People don't say that, but they should, because in the scripture work can be a calling. The early church, they got this right. In the Reformation, they began to put this back forward. But people began to look at their work as a calling, something that whether I'm in the military or whether I'm a CEO or even if I'm a stay-at-home mom, I'm leveraging my responsibilities.

I'm leveraging this quality, this responsibility for the glory of God. It's my calling. I'm going to work not for men. I'm not going to work for income. I'm not going to work for prestige. I'm not working for self-fulfillment. I'm working to glorify the Lord. And if we begin to look at our work that way, and we begin to ask ourselves the question, since all that's true, in light of my past experience, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing for me to do? We would avoid so much regret in our work life.

Could you imagine if you begin to ask the question of wisdom when it came to your work world, could you imagine how different your life would be right now if you just began to ask that question 20 years ago? Or how different your life would be 10 years down the road, what promotion you may get, what raise you may get, what you may get out of the workforce, what might happen if you began to ask the question of wisdom? And so since work is something that we use to glorify God, and since work is a sacred stewardship, which is temporary and that we're going to be accountable to God for.

Since work is all of those things, we need wisdom in our work. So how do we get wise in our work? I've just given you three headings in your notes. Sounds like something my dad would say. But it's actually in the Bible, work hard, redeem the time, and listen to counsel. And you know the reason why this sounds like something your dad would tell you? It's because all of

these are in the book of Proverbs. And Proverbs was a book written from a father to his son saying, you know what's moral, you know what's right, I'm going to tell you what's wise.

And if you'll know what's wise, you'll succeed, especially in the workplace. So work hard. Redeem the time and listen to counsel. First one is pursuing this spirit of industry, working hard. Look at Proverbs 12, verse 11. Proverbs 12:11. This is one of my favorite verses. Proverbs 12:11 says, Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense. In other words, there's a relationship between hard work and bread. So, well, I don't need bread. Well, this is an agrarian society where they grew wheat. Just think about satisfaction.

There's a relationship between working hard and having your needs taken care of, between having a spirit of industry where you get up in the morning and you work hard. And having your needs met. And so Proverbs is saying, if you're going to work, then work hard. Reject this spirit of laziness. What is this other person? He's pretty much a daydreamer says he follows worthless pursuits. It means he wastes his time doing work that doesn't produce anything. Okay, you could say he spends all his time on Facebook or Twitter. He's the daydreamer.

And Proverbs is saying, work hard. Look at Proverbs 6, verses 6 through 11. This is a very famous text about the ant and the sluggard. Basically you have a positive juxtaposed right next to a negative. Proverbs chapter 6. Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways and be wise. Without having any chief officer or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

So you have the contrast, right? You see the ant, which is industrious, and then you see the sluggard, which is lazy. So what do you learn from the ant? Basically what you get from the ant is this: the ant doesn't have to be coaxed into working. Okay, it's not like any of your moms—in order for you to get out of bed, they had to scratch your little back. Come on, honey. Get out of bed. Come on. Okay, the ant doesn't do that. It wakes up and it gets up. The ant doesn't have to be coaxed, it doesn't have to be persuaded, it doesn't have to be browbeaten.

If you've got some young people in our church today, that's okay. But it should stop when you're 18 years old, right? You get a job, right? Get up out of bed. The ant doesn't have to have a pep talk. It doesn't need accountability. There's no oversight. No motivational books. No sermons on work. Here's what the ant does. The ant was created to work. So guess what the ant does? It works. And here's what scripture is saying. Human beings were created to work. Open up the book of Genesis. The first thing you see is a God with his hands in the dirt.

God works. God made man in his image. He made man, he gave him responsibility in the garden. What did he say? Adam, you're a gardener. You're going to work. This is before sin even comes into the world. So work is a good thing, work is a pre-fall thing, work will exist in eternity. We were created to work. The God man, Jesus Christ, he comes to earth. What does he come as? A philosopher? No, he comes as a carpenter. Pretty philosophical carpenter, but still he was a worker. We were created to work.

The ant was created to work, and so the ant gets up and he works. And scripture is saying, since you were created to work, get up and work. Work's a good thing. Embrace work. Work hard. I want you to see a scripture in the book of Colossians chapter 3. I think all of us have this tendency, myself included, when we're working, especially when we're working in a corporate environment, that we forget this kind of vision of work. We begin to think of work as though we're working for the man, we're working for a paycheck, or we're working for a promotion, or we're working for X, Y, and Z.

Paul, when he wrote to the churches, when he was trying to set up a vision of work for the churches, he said, you're not working for the man, you're working for the Lord. Look at Colossians 3 verse 23. Whatever you do, work heartily. The Greek word, it just means work hard. Whatever you're doing, work hard. Whether you're a CEO, a stay-at-home mom, a banker, a carpenter, a school teacher, whatever you do, work hard. And how's the method? How are you working? As for the Lord and not for the man, or for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.

You are serving the Lord Christ. So there it is. Your work isn't for the man, your motivation isn't from the man. It's not anything to do with the man or an income or what they may think or promotion. All of your work, whatever you find yourself doing, whether you're in the corporate world or you're a stay-at-home mom, all of that is under this broad vision that I'm working for the Lord, that my reward is from the Lord and that the purpose of my work is that I can leverage my responsibilities to glorify God in it.

And when you begin to think of work in that way, everything changes. Everything changes. And you'll be able to make decisions that are wise in the workplace because you see your work as unto the Lord. So let me just ask you, do you see your work as unto the Lord? Or is it for the man or the woman? Is it just for the paycheck? Is it just for the recognition? Is it just so the public image it creates? Or are you looking at your work as though it's a sacred stewardship, that it's a trust, that it's temporary, and that you're accountable to the Lord?

When you begin to work hard and pursue diligence, you do that when you have this attitude of working as unto the Lord. And until you receive that kind of attitude, you'll be like a sluggard, which is the next example. You have the positive example of the ant, but also the negative example of the sluggard, and the sluggard, his problem is he can't get out of bed.

Okay. If you want a good example of a sluggard, come to my house on Saturday mornings and watch me. It says, like a door on its hinges, the sluggard rolls back and forth in his bed.

The sluggard doesn't get up when he wakes up. Okay, that's me on Saturday morning. I just lay there. She'll just say, will you please get out of bed? I'm paralyzed, love. I can't move. Yeah. Here's the sluggard's problem. The sluggard doesn't just do it on Saturday morning. The sluggard does it every single day of the week. The sluggard doesn't get up when he wakes up. The sluggard's always staying in bed. The sluggard's always coming up with some kind of excuse. And even when he does get up, he doesn't do anything.

Look at Proverbs chapter 22, verse 13. Proverbs 22:13. The sluggard is always making excuses. Always. And the excuses are never any good. Proverbs 22:13. He says things like, there's a lion outside. I shall be killed in the streets. Now it's not so crazy because in that culture there really could be a lion outside, but he's basically coming up with anything he can think of to get himself out of work. We call this today, we call this procrastination. It's most commonly seen in college students or graduate students or anything like that.

Some high school students, they come up with anything. Well, my mom wants me to go out to work. Well, I got my favorite shows on, or American Idol's on, or this or that is happening. And we'll do anything we can think of in order to get out of work. And that's sluggardliness. That is not industry. That is not wisdom in work. That's foolishness. And it has a consequence. Look at Proverbs 19:15. Slothfulness, or sluggardliness—Proverbs 19:15, slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger. Proverbs chapter 20, verse 13, just one page over.

Here's a dad speaking to his son. He's saying, son, love not sleep. Okay, don't sleep all the time. Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread. In other words, there's a relationship between laziness and poverty. That's not to negate the fact that there is some poverty that comes as a result of injustice. Okay, but not all poverty is a result of injustice. Some of the reason why people are poor, some of the reasons why we don't have any money is because we're sluggards.

We're lazy. And there's a relationship between laziness and not having food on the table. And so what scripture is saying, there are consequences. Here's what wisdom says. Get up, have a spirit of industry, take your cues from the ant. You don't need motivation. You're working as unto the Lord and reject this lazy spirit of just daydreaming, checking your Facebook all day long, never producing anything, making up excuses, any kind of excuse that will get you out of work, that will lead you down a path that you don't want to go.

The destination of that path is poverty and a life you don't want for yourself or your family. So work hard, pursue diligence. Reject laziness. But we don't always do that. And I thought about why we don't do this and I came up with a couple of reasons. The first is the exception

excuse and the second is the everybody else excuse. The exception excuse is, well, I'm unique. My situation's different. So I'm justified in not working hard because they're not giving me enough money. Oh, I didn't get the raise. If they would have given me the promotion, then maybe I would be justified in working hard, but they didn't give me the promotion.

I don't need to work hard. I'm different. My situation's unique. Or if they only knew how hard the job really was, they wouldn't be asking for this kind of commitment. Or if my boss, there's a good one, right? My boss stinks. Some bosses literally stink. I mean this otherwise metaphorically. He's no good. Therefore, I'm not going to work hard. I'm unique. I'm different. And the other excuse is, well, the everybody else excuse. Well, nobody else is working hard. It's the lowest common denominator excuse. You find the lowest producing person in your workplace and say, if he's getting paid the same amount of money that I'm getting paid, then why should I put out anything more than him?

Everybody else is being lazy, why shouldn't I be lazy? Well everybody else is coming in whenever they want to, why don't I come in whenever I want to? And did you notice those two things could not be further apart. They're the exact opposite. The first one says because I'm unique, I'm justified in being lazy. The second one says because I'm like everybody else, I'm justified in being lazy. And so we will rationalize and come up with anything to be foolish when it comes to working hard. It's crazy. It's crazy, but I've done both of them.

You probably have too. Proverbs is saying, embrace industry, work hard, reject laziness, and you'll be wise. And so will you ask the question, in light of my past experiences, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing for me to do in the workplace? What attitude adjustment needs to take place? What time do I need to start waking up? What relationship needs to change in the workplace? So, well, if anyone had my kids—you wouldn't be—if you had my kids, Wes, you wouldn't put that in your sermon.

Well, what's the wise thing to do? Whether you're a stay-at-home mom, a CEO, whatever you may be, asking the question of wisdom, that's the first thing. The second thing is redeeming the time. You remember in Ephesians 5, the apostle Paul supports this view of if you want to live the Christian life, then you're going to live it under this vision of wisdom. And one of the things that wisdom entails is making the most of your time or redeeming the time. And so you ask yourself the question in light of my past experience, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what's the best way for me to leverage my time.

I don't know if you've noticed this, but time is a limited resource. You don't get more time. You can make new friends, you can make more money, you can even have more babies, but you can't get more time. Time is limited. And since time is limited, this is one of the most important areas of life that we should ask the question. What is the wise thing to do? And time's a lot like money. That's probably why they say time is money. People invest their

money wisely and their money works for them and people who invest their time wisely make the time work for them.

A foolish investment of time is going to ruin your life. It's not wise. The real problem isn't poor income. The real problem is poor income management. It's the same with time. The problem isn't that we don't have enough time. The problem is that we don't manage properly the time we've been given. And so Proverbs is saying, redeem it. That word redeem means squeeze everything you can out of every moment that you've been given. So the wise person redeems the time, but the sluggard, he doesn't. Look at Proverbs 20, verse 4.

Proverbs 20, verse 4 says the sluggard does not plow in autumn. He will seek at harvest and have nothing. In other words, not only is the sluggard lazy, the sluggard doesn't manage his time. He's not paying attention. He's not acting on the opportunities. He's just kind of wandering through life, taking life as it comes, and oblivious to whether or not he's spending his time wisely. And time is a lot like money also in that small investments of time over a long period of time are cumulative. But you cannot, in the important areas of life, cram and have something good happen.

I guess the best example of this is dieting. If you ever thought, you know, I'm feeling a little bit overweight, I think I'm going to go on a diet, and so you do a crash diet, and you don't eat all day long, and you get on the scales and you think, yes, I'm going to be 20 pounds lighter. I'm starved. And you haven't budged an inch. You're not an inch lighter. You're not a pound lighter—there it is. Or working out. You say, you know, I want to get healthy. I want to start working out.

And so you go, you do the mega workout. You work your glutes, you work your hams, you work your calves, biceps, triceps, shoulders. Your neck, everything, you work out everything. It's a huge workout. You think this is going to be great. You get up in the morning and other than the fact that your body tells you that you're an incredible idiot for having done that, nothing else has changed. Nothing else has changed. But if you would begin to diet for a long period of time, small investments over a long period of time, it would make an impact.

If you began working out not for just one day, but for six months, it would begin to make an impact. And time is the same way. When you invest your time, small amounts of time over long periods of time, it has a greater impact. Here's the book, The Best Question Ever. He summarized it pretty well. He says, number one, there's a cumulative value to investing small amounts of time in certain activities over a long period. But although that's true, number two, there are rarely any immediate consequences to neglecting single installments of time in any arena of life.

So if you're on a six-month diet, it's okay to splurge one or so days. It's not going to hurt you. You're working out for six months. It's okay to miss a workout. It's not going to kill you. But

number three, neglect has a cumulative effect. And so the more you neglect, the more impact it's going to have. So if you neglect two weeks of working out, it's going to have a greater impact than two days. Number four, there is no cumulative value to the urgent things that we allow to interfere with the important things.

And so if you have an important project of work at work, just because you're busy checking your Facebook doesn't get the project any further down the road. Number five, you cannot make up for lost time in the critical areas of life. And so when you think about your workplace, you think about your responsibilities. In those critical areas, the areas in which it's most important that you win, you can't make up for lost time. You might be able to cram for a test. In fact, I've crammed for a few tests in my day, but you can't cram for saving your marriage.

You can't ignore your wife for 20 years and think I'll make up for it in retirement. You can't make up for lost time in those areas. Same in the workplace, in those important areas of the workplace or those important responsibilities. If you're a stay-at-home mom, you can't make up for two years of not spending any quality time with your kids and say, well, when they become teenagers, I'll make up for it. Look, they're gone when they get a car, unless you chain them. In the important areas of life, you can't make up for lost time.

And so it's even more important that in this arena of life, we begin to ask ourselves the question, what is the wise thing for me to do? In light of my past experiences, in light of my current circumstances, in light of my future hopes and dreams. When I get home from work, how should I spend my time? When I'm at work, how should I spend my mornings? When I'm at work, what should I do after lunch? How should I spend my time? What should I do before bed? What should I do after dinner?

Asking yourself the question in every arena of your life when it comes to the responsibilities that God has given you. Your vocation, whatever job you may have, you want to glorify God in your work. One of the ways that you glorify God in your work is by redeeming the time, squeezing it, making the most out of every moment you've been given and you do that by stopping for just a minute and asking the question, what's the wise thing for me to do? And if we would do that we would prevent ourselves from experiencing much regret.

I have a few points of application. Proverbs 21:5 says the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. Proverbs 21:31 says the horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord. One of the ways that you can redeem the time is by practicing the art of planning. They say plan your work, work your plan. Good advice. This attitude of fly by the seat of your pants is not a wise thing according to the book of Proverbs.

There is some credibility to planning. Now your plans and God plans, how that all works out, is interesting in the book of Proverbs. It says a man plans his days, but the Lord directs his steps. The horse is made ready for battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord. And so there is God's activity even in the midst and throughout your plans, but it doesn't negate the need for planning. And so you put a plan into place, one of the ways to maximize your time. And then the other thing is calendar your time, especially for the important areas of life that aren't urgent, like spending quality time with your kids.

Sometimes you've got to put that on the calendar. For me, I have to calendar my best time. There's a book written by Charles Hummel[1] that's called The Tyranny of the Urgent. Maybe you've read it. He talks about splitting your time up into four different quadrants, urgent and not urgent, important and not important. And in the urgent and important areas of life, the crises of the day, you spend your best time doing that. So for me, that's the weekly sermon. And on the weekly sermon, I give it my best time. So Tuesday mornings, Thursday mornings, Friday afternoons, I protect that.

I try not to let anything interfere with that time because that's my best time. But the non-important, not urgent matters of the day, try not to spend any time doing that unless it's time that's not important. The things that are not urgent but they're important in my world—visioneering, planning, strategic planning, things like that— I put it on the calendar because if I don't put it on the calendar, it's never going to get done because life is too urgent. There's too much to squeeze on you. And so you use your calendar to put those things into place.

Calendar is a beautiful thing. They make calendars these days that are on your smartphone. Did you know this? It's on your smartphone, it's on your iPads, it's in the computers. And in the one I have, you can put something in your calendar on your smartphone and then it syncs, baby. It syncs. And that's on all your devices. You say, well, I'm anti-technology. Well then use a planner and actually carry it with you. And actually write in it. I carried a planner, I never wrote in it. It's just a paperweight. It's not wise.

You calendar your time, plan. That's one of the ways to be wise with your time. And then acting on opportunities. Proverbs 14:23 says, in all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. You've got to start taking advantage of opportunities when they present themselves to you. And so in light of those things, what's the wise thing for you to do with your time? What opportunity do you need to say yes to? What opportunity do you need to say no to? And what do you need to do in your day so that you begin to feel the relational and calendar margin, so that you'll have the wisdom to know the difference of what you should and shouldn't do?

The last thing—we've got to be quick on this because I went long the last service. The last thing is listening to counsel. One of the best ways for you to grow in wisdom when it comes to your workplace or your responsibilities, and this is just true generally, whether you're

married or parenting or whatever it may be. Listening to wise counsel is one of the wisest things that you can do. Solomon was the wisest man in the world. And yet even Solomon, when he became a king, even though he had all the wisdom of the world, he still surrounded himself with wise counselors.

Proverbs 15:22. Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisors they succeed. Proverbs 20:18.[2] Plans are established by counsel; by wise guidance wage war. Proverbs 24:6. By wise guidance you can wage your war, and in the abundance of counselors, there is victory. If you're always the smartest person in the room, you need to make new friends. You shouldn't always be the smartest person in the room. And that's especially important as you become successful in your workplace, whatever it may be, because the more successful you become, the more impact your decisions are going to make in the people who are under you and so it's incredibly important to put smart people around you.

But we don't like soliciting advice, at least for the most part. The reason I know this is because anytime I've ever gone to someone and suggested parenting advice or marriage advice, unsolicited, I'm lucky not to get punched, you know, in the face like that. We don't like advice. We don't like counsel. Don't tell me how to live my life. But wise people know when they don't know. Wise people know when I need to go to someone else who does know and ask them what I should do. This is especially true in arenas of leadership.

If you are leading and you're always the smartest person in the room, you're not leading well. Wise people know when to put people around them who will give them wise counsel and wise people listen. And they especially listen when they're facing a decision that they're emotionally involved with because they know their emotional involvement may lead them astray. And so what is the wise thing for you to do? In light of your past experiences, your current circumstances, and your future hopes and dreams, are you emotionally involved? Is there something that happened in your history that jades you and you need another voice to come alongside you and give you wisdom?

If that's the case, then the wise thing for you to do is to listen. And you think about our Lord, someone who at just the right time came to earth. Koine Greek was basically the language for the whole known world, for Christianity to spread across the whole known world. He had the Roman road system that would have made Christianity spread even quicker. Jesus Christ comes to earth, lives as a carpenter, but works his whole life under the vision of his heavenly father, not working for the man, not thinking what other people may think.

Here is an example of wisdom. Here is not only wisdom's example, but wisdom's source. And so in light of our Lord, in light of what he's done, and the love that he's shown by dying on the cross for our sins that we've sung about, why not come to him as the one who is the source of wisdom? Why not in light of who he is and what he's done, since you are in him,

since you′re a disciple of Christ, in this area of your responsibilities, whatever that may be, why not just stop and ask the question?

What is the wise thing to do? Let′s pray together. Our Father, as we respond to you now in this time of invitation, we pray that the decisions that are made would lead us down a road of wisdom. And that you would be pleased with our lives as a result. And we ask this in Jesus′ name. Amen.

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1. Transcript note: spoken as ″Charles Hubble″; the author of *Tyranny of the Urgent* (1967 InterVarsity booklet) is Charles E. Hummel. Source: InterVarsity Press, *Tyranny of the Urgent* (ivpress.com); Wikipedia, ″Charles E. Hummel.″ ↩
2. Transcript note: spoken as ″Proverbs twenty-two, eighteen″; the verse quoted (″Plans are established by counsel; by wise guidance wage war″) is Proverbs 20:18. Source: ESV, Proverbs 20:18 and 22:18. ↩