God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Wisdom to Wait, Courage to Act

Speaker: Shane Condon

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Ecclesiastes 3:7 (ESV, excerpt)**

  "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;"

  Ecclesiastes describes life's changing seasons under God's rule. Silence and speech both have their place; neither is always the wiser response. Shane invites us to examine whether we need to listen and understand, or whether we are avoiding a responsibility we already recognize. The verse calls for humility about timing, not confidence that every impulse is God's direction.

- **Mark 8:18 (ESV, excerpt)**

  "And do you not remember?"

  The disciples were focused on their shortage of bread after seeing Jesus feed crowds. Jesus called them to remember what his provision revealed about him and to understand his warning. Remembering is more than recalling a useful life lesson: it turns our attention back to Jesus. His past faithfulness can steady us without guaranteeing that every new difficulty will unfold as we expect.

Discussion Questions

- Think of a decision you have delayed. What information is truly missing, and what part of the delay might come from fear or discomfort?
- When disagreement makes you want to respond immediately, what helps you listen long enough to understand the other person?
- Shane asks whether we need more understanding or more courage. How could prayer, Scripture, and a trusted believer help you answer that honestly?
- What does the disciples' concern about bread reveal about how quickly present worries can overshadow what we know about Jesus?
- Shane appreciated Julie taking time to examine Scripture before responding. How could you practice that humility without indefinitely postponing an important conversation?

Reflection Challenge

Choose one unresolved decision or conversation this week. Write down what you know, what you still need to understand, and one faithful next step. Seek wisdom without demanding complete certainty before doing what is right.

Ask yourself:

- Am I seeking understanding, or hoping the decision will make itself?
- Do I want to help and speak truth, or mainly prove that I am right?
- What have I already learned about Jesus that I need to remember today?

Try this:

- Read the highlighted passages in their surrounding chapters. Pray about the motives behind your decision.
- Ask one sincere question and listen to the full answer before responding to a disagreement.
- If you need more information, identify one source and a time to revisit the decision. If the next step is clear, choose a realistic time to take it.
- Tell a trusted believer your next step and invite them to follow up with you.

Remember

- Patient listening can be an active expression of faith.
- Fear can hide behind delay; impatience can hide behind confidence.
- Honest motives matter, and our choices must also agree with God's truth.
- Remembering Jesus' faithfulness helps us face today's uncertainty.
- Ask: Do I need more understanding, or more courage?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You know where I rush and where I hesitate. Give me humility to listen, patience to seek understanding, and courage to follow through on what is right. Help me examine my motives in the light of your Word. When worry narrows my view, remind me of Jesus' faithfulness. Guide my next step, and teach me to trust you with the outcome.

In Jesus' name, Amen.