

LIFE LESSONS: Commitment IS your calling.

Proverbs 16:1-3
Sunday, June 26th

Have you ever thought about what you'd tell your 17 year old self? I have a 17 year old right now. He's a senior. Not even sure how that happens!! One day he's a brand new baby and the next he's driving and making decisions about life and getting a paycheck in his bank account. There are times that he isn't totally sure I know what I'm talking about. Any parents of teenagers in the room? I was thinking about this lately. What would I say to myself at 17?

- Rachele, eat to fuel your body and learn to love exercise. There's nothing easy about it so just do it.
- Learn to Golf. Stop waiting till you think you'll be good at something to start.
- Get control of that lead foot when you drive. You'll get there when you get there.
- Make great friends with people who are totally different than you. Nationalities, Races, Belief Systems, Upbringings. Not everyone's story is like yours. You'll use this gift one day to help a community know Jesus.
- Learn to love to read and just sit still. This will be a challenge for you one day.
- Reading the Bible everyday isn't just a "legalistic rule". It's something you are going to want to STUDY and MEMORIZE. Learn to love it now. You'll use it every day of your life. Jr Bible Quiz and Missionettes will only take you so far. Dig in.
- Commit even when the circumstances make you want to bail. God's called you to be committed to Him. The rest...it will figure itself out.

And that is where we will sit today. **Life Lessons...Commitment IS your calling.**

Talk about calling: People tend to wrestle to hear God's voice and understand a specific calling for their life. You want to know what you were born to do! There is no calling...without commitment.

The word can cause people to bristle a little bit. But, commitment is required for SO many things in life. Cell phone plans, mortgages or rent, gym membership, marriage...they require follow through or there is typically a consequence. Right? The commitment is choice made that requires daily choices and follow through.

As much as we dislike this word in our culture right now...God's Word talks about it quite a bit. We're going to start in Proverb, venture into the Psalms and land on a story about Moses that hopefully will spur us on to live a life FULLY committed to Christ - no focused on the WHAT we do, but on the WHO that we are doing it for.

Our Life Lesson this week finds us in Proverbs 16:1-3

Proverbs 16:1-3 NIV

To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

KJV - Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy *thoughts* shall be established.

Later on in chapter 16 King Solomon mentions it again.

Proverbs 16:9 - In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Psalms 90 has some similar language.

Psalms 90:17 - Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands for us.

Psalms 90 is known as a prayer of Moses in the wilderness. It is seen in many commentaries that Psalm 90 was written after some trials and lessons that were learned in Numbers 20.

It's not just a statement that Moses casually makes. This is a lesson he has learned. Isn't that how it is. We grow through the lessons that we learn in life. Moses is asking the Lord to establish the work of his hands. He has recognized (even though he has seen God do INCREDIBLE miracles) that all the work in the world can be done, but without the Lord's hand and anointing on it...it is simply just work. The impact isn't there. Moses LEARNED this lesson.

I encourage you to read this through this week. I'm going to do my best to tell you the abridged version story today. Read the entire story of the Israelites leaving Egypt and entering the promised land. There is SO much we can learn...

- The Israelites were on a journey - a 40 year wandering through the wilderness- from Egypt to Canaan...the promised land. Moses was leading them along with Aaron, his brother.
- They arrived in Kadesh - Moses sister dies and is buried and it is beginning to sink in for people that the older generation is not going to be the ones to enter the promised land.
- They had the entire community of Israelites with them (I've read versions that call them a congregation, an assembly...but community....I like that word)
- The community began to get angry with Moses because they had stopped in a place that had no water or food for them. They began to get angry with their leadership and complain. (This seems to be a practice for the Israelites. Honestly, it gets tiring as you read about them)
- So Moses and Aaron separate themselves and head to the Tent of Meeting - the place where the Lord's presence was found. They FELL ON THEIR FACES because they knew the gravity of this. One generation's ways could so easily become the next generations. And the Glory of the Lord showed up.
- The Lord told Moses exactly what to do. Take your rod with you...but speak to the rock and there will be water for the community and the animals.
- A little more back story here...In Exodus 17 Moses was in Mt Sinai - and God told him to strike the rock for water. (A VERY similar circumstance...people were mad...God gave him a way out.)

- Something happens here. Moses begins to have a different tone. He calls them rebels and begins to almost hint that he has some sort of hand in this miracle.
- Could it be that he has seen this before? A sense of...don't worry God, I know what to do from here. A bit too comfortable with the things that he has seen God do?
- So he strikes it. (Did he forget? Did he just go default?) He struck it twice...once more than he did at mt sinai.
- God didn't ask him to strike it. He asked him to speak to it. It needed a different method. A different way to guide a new generation of israelites.
- And guess what...water comes out. And the community drank...and the animals drank.
- But Moses lost the opportunity to enter the promised land.
- Just because it WORKED...doesn't mean it was RIGHT. God wanted his obedience and his utter dependance on HIM.
- Commitment IS our calling. Our works...our ability to lead. That isn't our calling. Being totally surrendered to Jesus is our calling.

What can we learn about Commitment from Moses and these few scriptures in Proverbs? If Commitment to Christ is what we are called to...then what do we need to know?

- **Commitment is made concrete by seeking God's face.**
 - **Proverbs 16:1 To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue.**
 - We can plan all day long. In fact, it is part of our nature as humans. It's ok to plan.
 - Where should I go to school? What should I study there? When should I get married? Who do I want be when I get older? Should I change careers? How can I make a difference for Jesus? ALL GREAT QUESTIONS.
 - But when the Lord speaks...it trumps the plans of the heart.
 - These questions are answered one step at a time through COMMITMENT. Commitment to Christ is your first calling. From there the steps will come into place.
 - How will you know when the Lord speaks? You'll get on your face...just like Moses and Aaron did.
 - HE knows what I need even more than I do. I must SEEK him!
 - LEARN THAT IT IS MORE ABOUT FOLLOWING GOD'S VOICE THAN FINDING A TITLE OR A CAREER OR A REWARD OR CLIMBING A LADDER.
 - I stress people out a little bit. I can change gears quick. One minute I'm working on this...then next minute I'm working on something else. But ALL of it should be rooted in a commitment to hearing the Lords voice. This could be a terrible misguided life if I just changed at every whim. My plans. Not Gods?? But it was about being committed to HIM - not about what I would become.

- **Commitment requires constant weighing of motives.**
 - **Proverbs 16:2 All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord.**
 - It is normal for us to think of our own way as pure.
 - When we commit our lives to Jesus - we open ourselves up to correction, for guidance from the holy spirit. We allow our motives to be weighed.
 - Why am I doing what I am doing? What is the true force behind my actions? Power? Prestige? Popularity? All of these motives tend to change the message...they can have a profound impact on what is being communicated.
 - Moses's motives changed! Somewhere between the tent of meeting and the act of obedience it became about something other than bringing Glory to God. And the consequences were severe.
 - People didn't necessarily see the motives...they got the water they were looking for. But they saw the consequences when Moses didn't lead them into the promised land. Remember...this was something that He as called to even as a Child. It was his DREAM.
 - Your motives. Your ability to obey. It matters.
 - On top of all of this - Aaron is later brought up on a mountain, his garments were transferred to his son Eleazar and he died. I imagine this to be a hard moment for Moses.
 - I have to ask myself this question daily. You can too. We won't be perfect...but the more we seek his face and surrender ourselves to Him the more pure our motives will be. THIS IS NOT ABOUT ME.

- **Commitment is a transfer of control.**
 - **Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans.**
 - The hebrew word for Commit is Galal - to roll GAWLAAL
 - "Hebrew, *Roll*, etc., as a man rolls a burden to another, which is too heavy for himself, imploring his help. Refer all thy actions and concerns to God, and to his glory." (Poole)
 - I'm burning the ships. I'm not looking for another way out. I'm not leaving a door open, Lord. You've got me. All of me.
 - This is where Moses lost the vision. He took back the control and acted in own way. It was a mistake.

- **Commitment brings stability and establishment.**
 - **Proverbs 16:3 And He will establish your plans**
 - **Proverbs 16:3 And your thoughts will be established (KJV)**
 - Commitment establishes our thoughts. Are you tired of spinning thoughts? Constant feelings of not knowing which direction to go. Start by committing your life FULLY to Christ. The weight of those decisions becomes different when you KNOW what you believe.

- When something is established it is reputable. It's been around for a while. It's been tested. Something that has been established DOES NOT WAIVER. CIRCUMSTANCES DON'T COUNT HERE!
- We've given Moses a pretty tough wrap.
- I believe it was through all of this that he learned about God establishing His work for Him. We simply CANNOT do it alone. As smart as you are, as powerful of connections you have. The Work of God is DONE BY GOD and by Him alone. He must receive the Glory for it.
- **Psalm 90:17 - Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands for us.**
- He establishes the work of our hands (Which he intended for us to do ahead of time!) He was in control the whole time. He KNOWS what He created you for!

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

What more reason do we need to commit our lives to Jesus? If HE has the answer...If HE planned in advance the work that we will do - why wouldn't we commit our entire life to Him? . Either I can control the plan or He can.

Practical Application:

Choose today to make a commitment to Christ.

Some of us today need to roll the burden of that commitment to the Lord. You need to make a final decision...one that does not waiver, one that isn't impacted by circumstances. I believe that when that decision is made...you will feel a bit lighter. The pressure to DO will be replaced with an ability to just BE.

Commitment IS your calling. Commit to getting on your face before God. Each day allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Pray for those who have never committed their life to Christ. Or for those who have been choosing otherwise.

Pray for those who are wrestling with specific decisions - that they would get on their face before God. Commitment is their calling...establish their steps Lord.