

EASTER text graphic

Series graphic w/email

<https://davidjeremiah.blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/5-principles-for-biblical-decision-making.jpg>

My Mistakes in Decision-Making:

1-[X] Big is better than small.

Zechariah 4:10a

For who despises the day of **small things**?

Luke 16:10 (NIV)

“Whoever can be trusted with **very little** can also be trusted with much ...

2-[X] Spiritual life (religion) is about avoiding hell and getting help.

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might **bring us to God** ...

→ the “with” God life

3-[X] Visible is better than invisible.

1 Peter 1:8 (NLT)

You love Him even though you have **never seen Him**. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a **glorious, inexpressible joy**.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, **not** by sight.

4-[X] Having is better than being.

Luke 12:15 (MSG)

Speaking to the people, He went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is **not** defined by what you **have**, even when you **have** a lot.”

5-[X] Meditate on your mistakes & missteps.

Joshua 7:6,10

Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord **until evening**, as did the elders of Israel ... 10 The Lord then said to Joshua, "**Stand up!** Why have you fallen facedown?"

Psalm 23:3 (NASB)

He **restores** my soul; He **guides** me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

House framework image

<https://www.engineeringplans.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/wood-framed-walls-over-view.jpg>

I Thessalonians 2:17-18

But as for us, brothers and sisters, after we were forced to leave you for a short time (in person, not in heart), we greatly **desired** and **made every effort to return** and see you face to face. ¹⁸ So we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but **Satan** hindered us.

Paul's Situation:

- A young church is facing opposition
- He wants to visit in person
 - Repeatedly blocked
 - Satan ...??

I Thessalonians 3:1-2a

Therefore, when we could **no longer stand it**, we **thought it was better** to be **left alone** in Athens. ² And we sent **Timothy** ...

Dynamics of the Decision → KINDGOM INITIATIVE

- Intense emotion ... pressure
- "We" is involved
- Athens is a tough place
- Send Timothy: *travel; staffing; costs; dangers*

I Thessalonians 3:1-2

Therefore, when we could no longer stand it, we thought it was better to be left alone in Athens. ² And we sent Timothy, **our brother** and **God's coworker** in the gospel of Christ ...

{one slide; come up one point at a time}

Timothy: believer, church member, partner

- He knows WHOSE He is, WHO He is, and WHY He is
- Identity and purpose are settled, not searches

1) This decision/direction is not an **existential** quest but rather an **expression** of Whose, who and why I am.

“So long as there is some thought of personal advantage, some idea of acquiring the praise and commendation of men, some aim of self-aggrandizement, it will be simply impossible to find out God’s purpose concerning us.” {F.B. Meyer}

I Thessalonians 3:2

And we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to **strengthen and encourage you** concerning your faith ...

2) This decision/direction is aimed at **love**.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility **consider others** as more important than yourselves. ⁴ Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the **interests of others**.

How do I best **REFLECT** the love that I have **RECEIVED** from Jesus?

What if Timothy ... went to Thessalonica seeking to prove himself? Gain control?

I Thessalonians 3:2-4

... we sent Timothy ... to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, ³ so that no one will be **shaken by these afflictions**. For you yourselves know that we are **appointed to this**. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we told you in advance that we were **going to experience affliction**, and as you know, it happened.

3) This decision/direction is not **swayed by affliction**; it can survive contact with the enemy.

Psalms 138:8

The Lord will **fulfill His purpose** for me. Lord, Your **faithful love** endures forever; do not abandon the work of your hands.

→ **WELCOMING PRAYER**

Letting go of our desire for security, control, & affirmation to embrace the moment as ordained by God.

WELCOME ... WELCOME ... WELCOME ...

{come up all at once; one slide}

WELCOME ... WELCOME ... WELCOME ...

- Let go ...
- Lean not ... (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- Roll on ... (I Peter 5:7)

WELCOME ... WELCOME ... WELCOME ...

- Let go ... Lean not ... Roll on
- *Trust & obey ...*
- *Watch & pray ...*
- *Your will, Your way*

Psalm 27:14 (NIV)

I remain **confident** of this: I will see the **goodness of the Lord** in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord, **be strong and take heart**, and wait for the Lord.

I Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, **when I could no longer stand it**, I also sent him {*Timothy*} to find out about your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you and that our labor might be for nothing.

4) This decision/direction is connected to a **holy burden.**

→ *What keeps coming up ...?*

Psalm 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

³He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Psalm 23:4-5

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.