

God Time Day 1: Our Decisions Matter



It's very common to enter the New Year thinking about improvements, resolutions, events, and plans. What might make this year better than last? How can I improve myself? What big things are on the calendar for me this year? What big decisions do I need to make?

Many of those things require decisions and making decisions can be stressful. In this series, we'll look at some practical help for making good, godly decisions. After all, our decisions matter.



Read Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

If we are told to do everything in Jesus' name, what does that say about the importance of our decisions?

God Time Day 2: God is Holy



Read Leviticus 11:44a

For I am the LORD your God, so you must consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am holy.



Circle what are we told to be.

Underline why we are to be this.

The holiness of God means that God is "wholly other" –*distinct* from all creation. Although, when we explain the term by saying "set apart," that really doesn't do it justice. The full meaning goes beyond that – more like: removed from common use and set apart for *God's purpose*.

God is holy. What does that have to do with decision-making? Our decisions should be godly. (Perfect? Impossible. But we should aim for godly.)

How do your decisions show that you are set apart for God's purposes? Do your decisions reflect this?

God Time Day 3: Who Before Do



If we want to make godly decisions, we need to look to God. That sounds like a no-brainer, doesn't it? When we look to Jesus, God the Son, we are shown what this looks like.

Jesus often talked about the heart– the inner person. We might call this character. Jesus was very concerned with what is inside of a person– our inner thoughts, attitudes, desires, and motivations. All of this is related to the fact that we are called to be holy like God is holy. It isn't something that we put on to dress ourselves up; it's something that begins inside and works its way out.



Read Matthew 23:

²⁵*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.* ²⁶*Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside of it may also become clean.* ²⁷*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity.* ²⁸*In the same way, on the outside you seem righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

Compare the differences between the *outside* and *inside*.

	Outside		Inside
v. 25		<i>but...</i>	
v. 26		<i>but...</i>	
v. 27		<i>but...</i>	

In v. 26, underline what Jesus tells the Pharisees to do first.

Rather than first asking God, "What do you want me to do?" we should ask, "Who do you want me to be?"



Ask God about that and journal what He reveals.

God Time Day 4: Why Before What



Read Proverbs 16:2
All a person's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs motives.

Underline how a person's ways seem to himself.



Circle who sees and knows the person's motives.

If God is looking at our motives, that should be an incentive for us to make sure our motives are right. In other words, the "why" is important! And the why should come before the "what" of what we do.



Read Galatians 1:10
For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Now, flip back to Day 1 and read Colossians 3:17 again. (See if you can memorize it.) Whatever we do, we do it in the name of Jesus. That means that we do things as a service to *Him* and not as a way of kissing up to others. Whether we are eating, drinking, raising children, stuck in traffic on the morning commute, serving the needy, or cleaning a toilet, we do it in His name because we serve Him. That's our why.

Our why results from the holiness we talked about on Days 2 and 3. When we live worshipful lives, God works His holiness in us. We are holy because He is holy. That makes the "do" part (what we do, the actions we take) a lot easier! In other words, when our hearts are right, our actions will be right. It all starts with why.

For the next few minutes, look up and pray over Psalm 139.

Write verse 24 here:



Ask God to search your heart and lead you in His ways.

God Time Day Day 5 - Becoming Who God Wants



As we seek direction for our decisions, we must take into account who God wants us to become. We know that this life is one of growth and spiritual maturity.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Underline the word "sanctify."



Circle the word "completely."

Put a box around how spirit, soul, and body should be kept.

We need to be sanctified and kept sound and blameless because we will meet Jesus Christ someday – whether in heaven when we die or if He comes back first. So, Christ wants us to live a godly life; this is who God wants us to become! It's a process called sanctification. It transforms us and reveals Him to the world around us.

Think of someone you've known who was particularly godly. What made them a godly person in your view?

Make a list of characteristics that a godly, holy person might have. (E.g., faithfulness, love, generosity...)

_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

How could those characteristics encourage other Christians and reveal Jesus to the world around us?



Circle a few items on the list above that you'd like to adopt for yourself. Put one or two into practice this next week – for His glory, not your own.