

August 9, 2015

## *Discovering God's Will for You*

*"If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me..."*  
Judges 6 and 7



We have been talking about finding God's will for us, personally. We understand that the Father wants us to work with him in seeking and saving those who are still lost in their sin and all of us need to play a part in that great purpose. But what does God want of me personally?

Last week we considered three principles that I believe will guide us in finding and understanding the Father's will for our lives. They included...

- **Place absolute trust in the Father**
- **Address the basics of obedience**
- **Apply intelligence and experience**

Today we want to add two more principles that will aid us in determining what God's will is for us.

**Seek for direction:** This principle comes from the story of Gideon which is found in Judges 6 and 7. Gideon was an Israelite from the tribe of Manasseh who lived during a time when the Lord had allowed the people of Midian to persecute his people. After many years of suffering as a result of their sinful choices the people of Israel had cried out to God for deliverance.

He called on Gideon to deliver the Israelites from Midian, but like a lot of us, Gideon was not sure he was going in the right direction. So, he asked God for signs. The first involved a sacrifice which Gideon prepared and God's Angel burned to a crisp with fire from a rock. The next two involved a fleece from a sheep.

Gideon struggled as many of us do, with understanding what the Father had in mind for him and for his people. He asked God to help his unbelief through simple signs. God showed Gideon through the signs that the path that he had laid out before him was in deed the right path.

Sometimes we are like Gideon and although we can see a path, or two, or three laid out before us we are not sure which direction to take. Asking God for a sign is something we can do to help us find his way for us. But, be careful. Sometimes we overlook the obvious directions that the Father is giving us, simply because we are expecting a magic show.

If I start in the direction that the Father seems to be calling me to take and all of the doors slam shut and all of the opportunities disappear then the Father is probably telling me not to go that way. If, on the other hand, I start down a path that he seems to be indicating, and all of

the doors open and everything comes together then I am probably going in the way that the Father has planned for me.

**Let God lead:** One of my struggles in seeking the Father's will is that I find myself telling him what I think I should be doing. I am confident that all of us get trapped into this mistake. If I am seeking the Father's will then he is the shepherd and I am following him. I am not the shepherd and it is not for me to tell him where I think we should go or what we should be doing.

This is hard for us to do for a number of reasons. Like sheep we would almost always prefer the simplest road that leads alongside the best streams. The Father often leads us through difficult places and he often calls us to do difficult things.

Surrendering to his leadership is often a challenge. Another major obstacle to following the Father is that he doesn't show us much of the road. If we can see ahead at all, it is not very far. Following the Father even when we don't see where we are going or how it is all going to turn out is another major challenge.

Finally, I have a fatal flaw. I believe that I know a better way. Most of us have this flaw. We nearly always think we know a better way. God is not asking us for advice about the direction he wants our lives to take. He has a plan for us and he needs us to follow him.

When Jesus called the twelve in Matthew 4:19 he simply said, "***Come follow me and I will make you fishers of me.***" I wonder if they had been able to see where that journey would take them; if they had known what that choice would cost them; if they would have chosen to follow him.