



What's Peace Got to Do With It?

WEEK TWO

Behind each of our regrets is a series of unwise choices.

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

SERIES BIG IDEA:

When I follow God's will, I will have no regrets.

SERIES BIG PRAYER:

Father, I want Your will more than I want my way. Show me Your will for today.

Often, we make unwise choices because we don't ask wise questions.

AN UNWISE QUESTION:

Am I at peace with it?

We use the excuse that "we are at peace with it" to avoid the cost or suffering.

⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Luke 22:41-46 (NIV)

Because He was at peace in His relationship with His Father, Jesus endured suffering knowing it was God's will.

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

When I obey God's will, I trust I will have joy even when I'm not at peace with the cost.



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MY NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Our feelings can fool us. Our feelings can lead us to believe that we are following the right path because we think we are at peace when in reality we are really just enjoying following our own will.

Our feelings are fickle and will be impossible to follow in the long run. Even still, God's will for our lives is steady, and when in His will, while our surroundings won't always be peaceful, we can be at peace.

Sometimes we are asked to obey God's will even when it doesn't lead us down the safest, easiest, or smoothest path and we are not alone. Jesus also dealt with this the night before He went to the cross.

Much like we are presented with the opportunity to do things our way, Jesus had a way out but chose that the Father's will was greater and was the way to peace, not just for Him but to provide a path to peace for us.

So will you choose the lasting peace that comes from being in God's will? Will you trust that God's will is better than yours? Will you let a feeling of peace be the by-product of being in God's will, not a deciding factor about what is His will?

TALK IT OVER:

Why do you think it is that we often follow our feelings rather than what we know to be true?

Have you experienced a time when God asked you to do something out of your comfort zone and found peace even in the difficult decision? What was that like? What was the difference between that kind of peace compared to the feeling of peace that is driven by comfort?

What is one next step you can take today?

Who is someone you need to share that next step with?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1) 1 Peter 1:1-16

Day 2) 1 Peter 5:6-11

Day 3) Proverbs 4:18-27

Day 4) Proverbs 2:1-15

Day 5) Galatians 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Day 6) 1 Peter 1:17-25