

January 23, 2022 Dennis Gallaher Knowing God's Will

Three keys to both hearing God's voice and knowing God's will are like 3 lights set in a harbor to guide ships. These lights guide us and keep us from great peril.

- The first light is God's Word. **Psalm 119:105** *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Intuitive feelings and thinking are not the same as God's Word.
- The second light is Godly counsel. **Hebrews 13:17** *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*
- The third light is waiting and prayer. Prayer that is submitted to others and is tender to God's voice. We must have others speaking into areas of our lives where we are emotionally invested.

God wants to communicate with us! It is not about our worthiness. The issue is our willingness to listen and to hear God's voice. **Jeremiah 29:13** *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.* Hearing God's voice and knowing His will is a lifelong pursuit. Don't ever stop asking; don't ever stop listening; don't ever stop seeking His presence! God promises to guide us. When God's Word, counsel, waiting, and prayer line up, then you know you have God's will.

In order to know God's will, we first need to know the center of God's will - the balance point from which His plans and His voice emulate. When we are off-center, we lose sight of God's most common will and desire and become out of balance or "wobbly." If we know the center of God's will and live there, nothing can shake us from the high calling of God in our lives.

Three times Jesus refers to a harvest:

- **John 4** talks of Jesus going to Samaria where they were hated. **John 4:35** ... *Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.*
- **Matthew 9** He saw the distressed sheep in Galilee and saw the harvest. **Matthew 9:37** *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*
- **Luke 10** Jesus saw the harvest in the neglected country of Perea. **Luke 10:2** *And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

Where there is darkness, there is harvest.

Luke 10 has three movements:

- **verses 1-20** The sending and return of the 70
- **verses 25-29** The challenge of the lawyer
- **verses 30-37** The story of the good Samaritan. We find ourselves in the final months of Jesus' ministry before the cross - most of which was spent in a region of Israel known as Perea - an area that was simply neglected.

First Movement: Jesus sends 35 teams to cover this area of neglect, to preach the Kingdom, and heal the sick. Why? Jesus saw the harvest! **Verse 2** *And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

Second Movement: A lawyer caught up in legalities asks, *"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* Jesus answers with the law. There is a difference between law and grace. The law has "to-dos." Grace says, "here is life - just live in this freedom." Do you desire to know the center of God's will? Begin with living as Jesus told us to, then go and do what Jesus asks us to - Love your neighbor, Jesus says.

Third Movement: The story of the good Samaritan. Like many in the church today, we stay on the safe side of the street. This hated Samaritan man becomes a help to the injured. **Luke 10:37** *And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."*

Even in the worst possible places, be the good Samaritan wherever we go. That's the center of God's will. Let's cross the road and show mercy. Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God. Declare the Kingdom of God. Find the field wherever you go! Everyone needs a touch of the Holy Spirit.

Do you identify more with the lawyer or the Samaritan? wanting to judge and correct, or help others?

How does being in the center of God's will help us with knowing God's will?

How can we pursue the harvest in our world that seems so dark?