

Seeking God's Will Gone Awry

Discussion

1. Which profession can honor God more, a doctor or a policeman? Why?
2. What are some reasons people come late to church?

Last time on God's will...

Last time we discussed how many of us run into problems when trying to figure out God's will for our lives and what some of the reasons why. This week we will discuss some common mistakes that many people make when trying to discern God's will or direction.

1. We focus on what we cannot control instead of what we can

- a) [We think God is] a tricky little deity who plays hide and seek with us. (Just Do Something, DeYoung, Kevin 2009 p. 46)
- b) How do you know when an open door is the Lord's open door or the Devil tempting you? How do you know when a closed door is the Lord's answer to your prayer or the Lord's testing your steadfastness and resolve? These are the conundrums people get into when all their decisions come from subjective attempts to discern God's will for their lives. (DeYoung p. 52)
- c) We must renounce our sinful desire to know the future to be in control. We are not gods. We walk by faith, not by sight. We risk because God does not risk. We walk into the future in God-glorifying confidence, not because the future is known to us but because it is known to God and that is all we need to know. (DeYoung p. 48)

2. We focus on the future instead of the present

- a) We should spend more time trying to figure out how to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God as a doctor or a lawyer and less time worrying about whether God wants us to be a doctor or a lawyer. (DeYoung p. 45)
- b) The most important issues for God are moral purity, theological fidelity, compassion, joy, our witness, faithfulness, hospitality, love, worship, and faith...The problem is we tend to focus most of our attention on everything else. (DeYoung p.44)

3. We focus on ourselves instead of God

- a) We imagine that our inactivity is patience and sensitivity to God's leading. At times it may be; but it's also quite possible we are just lazy...Perhaps our inactivity is not so much waiting on God as it is as an expression of the fear of man, the love of the praise of man, and disbelief in God's providence. (DeYoung p. 51)
- b) Worry about the future is not simply a character tic, it is the sin of unbelief, and indication that our hearts are not resting in the promises of God. (DeYoung p. 48)

Discussion Questions

- Am I trying to know and control the big things in my life?
- Am I thinking about the future so much that I'm losing sight of the present?
- Am I afraid of moving forward because I don't ultimately trust in God's providence?