

Psalm 23 -Part 5
He Leads

- How God Leads

James 1:5 (GW) If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you. God is generous to everyone and doesn't find fault with them.

- Indecision is one of the greatest sources of stress in your life

Psalm 23 (ESV) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

When Looking for Guidance I Monitor:

A) **CULTURE**

- I can't follow a culture that doesn't follow God if I'm trying to follow God

Exodus 23:2 (NOG) Never follow a crowd in doing wrong.

- “If you don't fit in then you're probably doing the right thing.”
- “Taking into account the public's regrettable lack of taste, it is essential for you not to fit in.”
- Guffaw - a loud and boisterous laugh
- You're supposed to be different
- I want your light to shine amongst a nation of darkness

Romans 12:2 (GW) Don't become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

- One of the weaknesses of following culture is that it's all temporary

B) **FRIENDS**

- Mom/Dad - I know they're not a Christian but I'm going to witness to them
- Translation “This person is hot, and I know it's wrong but I'm doing it anyway”
- I'm not gonna let the wrong friends influence me

Proverbs 13:20 (MSG) Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.

- You can't soar with the eagles if you're clucking with the chickens

Jer. 15:19 (TLB) The Lord replied: "Stop this foolishness and talk some sense! Only if you return to trusting me will I let you continue as my spokesman. You are to influence them, not let them influence you!"

- Every day, when you go to work/school, you're deciding, am I going to be a thermostat or a thermometer?
- A thermometer just reflects what the temperature is of the environment
- A thermostat turns the heat up or down

C) SOURCES

- "I want you to look to me, and don't look to other things for your guidance."
- Consulting the liver

Ezekiel 21:21 (TLB) For the king of Babylon stands at a fork, uncertain whether to attack Jerusalem or Rabbah. He will call his magicians to use divination; they will cast lots by shaking arrows from the quiver; they will sacrifice to idols and inspect the liver of their sacrifice.

In Order to be Led by God:

1st) I DECIDE that God leads.

- It is the nature of God to speak. —A. W. Tozer
- If I don't have the faith that God will lead me then I won't hear

2nd) I DESIRE to hear.

Psalm 40:8 (NIV) I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart."

The gospel is the glad and merry news that God is good, he loves you, and he will happily give up everything he has so he can have you. Contrary to popular belief, if you are in Christ, God is not mad at you. He is not even in a bad mood. The good news declares that God is happy, he is for you, and he wants to share his life with you forever.

- Be Merciful to myself
- Holy Spirit help me hear what Jesus is saying to me
- Give it time

3rd) I DISCIPLINE myself to follow.

- I must be willing to do what God says.

1 Thess. 5:18 (ESV) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Peter 2:15 (ESV) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

4th) I **DIG** into God's Word.

- God's will is found in God's Word!

Psalm 119:105 (ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:133 (NLT) "Guide my steps by your Word, so I will not be overcome by any evil."

- As you read God's Word, he speaks to you.

4th) **SILENCE** - I must listen for God's response.

- Make it a point to hear God