

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

GROWTH
GUIDE

STRESSBUSTERS
PSALM 23

Handout: 05/17/20

Study: 05/24/20

Busting The Stress Of Indecision

Indecision. We all have experienced it at one time or another in our lives. Some decisions aren't all that significant, such as what to have for lunch or what to wear, while others have long-term significance, such as what career to pursue or whom to marry.

In Luke 23 we find a story of one man who struggled with the decision of a lifetime. His name was Pontius Pilate, a very indecisive man who allowed other people to make his decisions for him. Pilate grappled with the issue of what to do with Jesus.

He knew what was right. He knew Jesus was innocent. His wife even had sent him a message in which she warned him not to have anything to do with Jesus because of a dream she had. This only confirmed what he already knew: this man was innocent. What was he going to do? He knew he had to make a decision.

While this is a story of a man who never put his faith in the Lord and missed the opportunity of a lifetime, Christians can learn some things from it as well. Many people say they follow Jesus, but in the pursuit of success, they sacrifice everything. They sacrifice their integrity. They sacrifice their standards. They sacrifice their friends. They even sacrifice their faith. In doing so, they follow the pattern of Pilate.

Others choose people over Jesus. They are more concerned about what is cool and acceptable than what God thinks. This is what Pilate did. He knew these religious leaders were wrong. He knew the fickle multitude was wrong. He knew Jesus was innocent. But he gave in to peer pressure when, deep down inside, he knew what was right.

The compromised life reaches no one. I look at people who have made commitments to Christ but have always lived a compromised life. They try to have it all. Often their marriages fall apart. Their families fall apart. Even their careers fall apart. The things they wanted so badly slip away.

Then I look at those who do what God wants. They live by the principles of Scripture. They are men and women of integrity and honesty. I see how God blesses them. Their example reminds me that it is better to be less than successful in the world's eyes and be obedient to God, because that is all that really matters in the end.

What if you give up something to follow Jesus? So you give it up. Whatever you give up will be restored to you in some way, shape, or form in this life and ultimately in the life to come. One day, when you look back, you won't regret that you decided to follow Jesus.

Source: “The Dangers Of Indecision” by Greg Laurie

KEY VERSE

Psalm 23:3b (NKJV)

*“He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name’s sake.”*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Psalm 23; Isaiah 53:6; Proverbs 14:12

Admit That You Need A Guide

1. Describe a time in your life when you struggled with indecision. How did you make a decision?
2. Has there been a time in your life when you felt off track? Why can it be difficult at times to admit that you need a guide?

Tuesday: Psalm 23; Psalm 37:23-24; Romans 8:13-14

Accept God The Shepherd As Your Guide

3. Is it easy or difficult for you to accept God’s guidance? Why?
4. What are some decisions that you face and how can accepting God’s guidance impact your decision making?

Wednesday: Psalm 23; James 1:5-6; Psalm 25:4-5

Ask God In Faith For Direction

5. What does it mean to ask God in faith for direction?
6. Based upon James 1:5-6, how will God answer your prayer if you ask Him for wisdom?

Thursday: Psalm 23; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 11:14; John 10:27

Listen For God’s Response

7. What are ways in which God speaks to you?
8. How has God spoken to you this week through reading His Word?
9. How has God spoken to you through your church family or other believers?

Friday: Psalm 23; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 55:8-9

Acknowledge And Trust God When You Don’t Understand

10. Has God ever led you in ways that you don’t understand? How can you trust God even if things don’t make sense to you?
11. List some qualities about God that make him the perfect Shepherd. How can He give you confidence through uncertain times?
12. What does it mean to acknowledge God when you don’t understand?