

Whether you turn to the right or to the left,  
you will hear a voice saying, "This is the road!  
Now follow it."  
Isaiah 30:21



## Decisions

Liberty Towers Church of the Nazarene  
Men's study



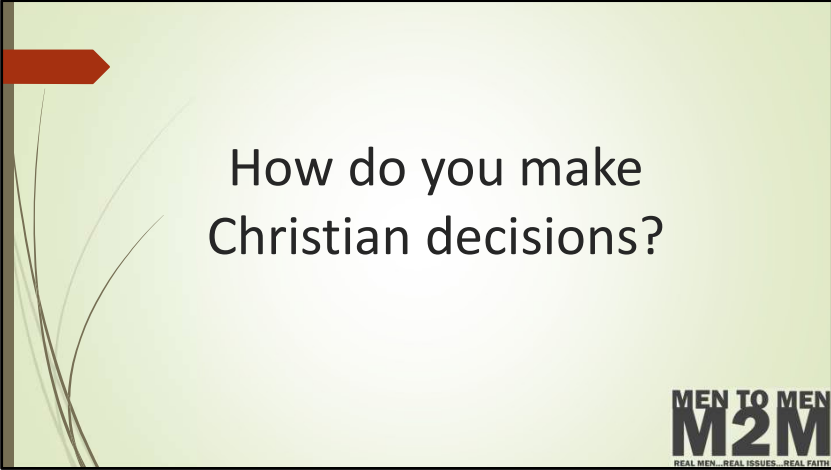
## Review

- Decisions Week 1
  - Did you do your homework?
    - Did you slow down your decision making process
    - Be more aware of your decisions
    - Did you take notice of the methods you use to make decisions?
  - Review of last weeks worksheets
    - What stood out from last week's lesson
    - What question remained unanswered from last week's lesson
    - Was there something that pointed you to the character or ministry of Jesus
    - Was there an idea or concept that made a difference in your week of decisions
    - Was there an idea or concept that made a difference in your actions



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**M2M**  
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# How do you make Christian decisions?

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2000 YEARS SINCE THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS

Asked more questions than had answers to others questions  
Some of the questions were DUH questions... they ones  
we have already figured out

Father giving a serpent instead of a fish  
Others were asked to bring the hearer to a conclusion for  
themselves

To make a decision. To not fluctuate between  
alternatives

Decisions make problems

our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, some even here in our church  
Or even right here in this room ----- are living **broken** lives because of  
decisions

They are living with broken hearts

Some with shattered dreams

Some are living in a dark night that never seems to end

ALL BECAUSE OF DECISIONS...

So how do we do it

education.....career...location ... marriage... relationships...church




So what are the most common methods of Christian decision making?

- A. "Let's pray about it" of course that is important for telling God your need.
- B. Make a pro and con list  
Most of the time god asks us to do things that make no sense at all.  
Sometimes the list is all Cons but God is asking to do it anyway.
- C. Seek god's will in everything – every moment, every step, every decision big or small. ECC. Vanity Vanity it is all  
vanity. Can't be done.
- D. God is my co-pilot. As long as he is on my side then decisions. What would Jesus do..... Jesus never drove a car
- E. Sense his leading  
I am very sensitive to Gods leanings, I listen well, "be still and know". But we still need a little more affirmation.  
Need to do due diligence.
- F: Open and close door approach  
Wait to see what happens. Do it until we feel resistance  
Attractors and confirmer of my decisions
- G: Nike  
Just do it  
Just go out and try to teach, or volunteer, or become a brain surgeon. If I fail it was God's will, If I succeed it is God's will.
- H Lock down  
Just go into slow motion. Let momentum push you along. Wait long enough it will work out, I just wait for a Jesus moment.

ALL OF THESE HAVE MERIT, BUT EACH HAVE BEEN ABUSED, EACH HAS UTTERLY FAILED.  
I BELIEVE IT IS BIGGER THAN ANY OF THESE THINGS.

There are two areas that need to be addressed tonight.

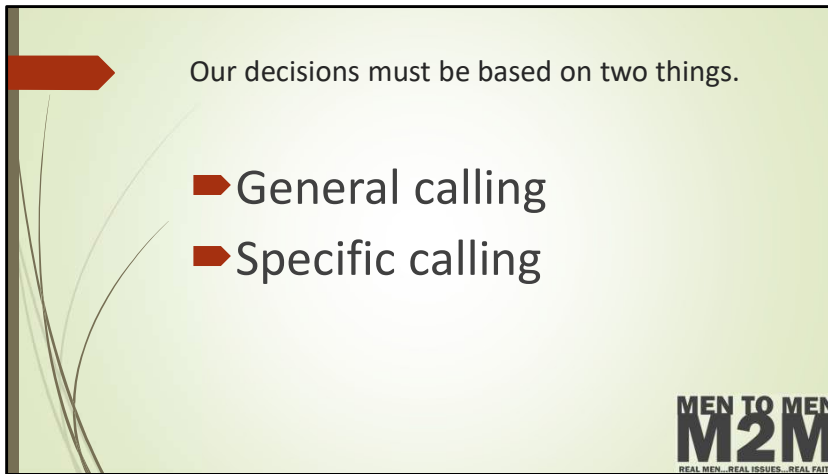


## Decisions

- Each of these methods have merit
- There are hundreds of method lists
- It is more than a list of guidelines

- 
- I would divide our decision making model on two things.
  - General Call
  - Specific or unique call

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Do not get confused about the word “calling”  
used in many different ways in church today.

I have even heard someone say they were called to stack chairs.

**Almost every time the concept of calling or being called in scripture is toward God or to salvation.**

The general call is one to all Christians. It is what Pastor Jim Sunday was the Firsts of God

We will talk about the second in the next weeks. The specific calling

The General call is specific, measurable, concise, without shadow, without interpretation, without grey edges  
Without fungibility.

It is the top of the pyramid

The most important

It separates decision making and Christian decision making.

We can't really get to the personal, individual decision making process unless we accept the first GENERAL CALLING

**Four sequential Guidelines**

- All these guidelines are for those who have settled the First General Call
- All the sequential guidelines are after the General Call
- Without the proper mindset of General call the others are meaningless
- Each of the sequential guidelines are in order

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The next four weeks we will study these four sequential guidelines.



General call


- Ideas?
- Guesses?
- Scriptures?
- Insights?

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What is the first General Call?

Suggestions-----

Bible study to discover the first General call

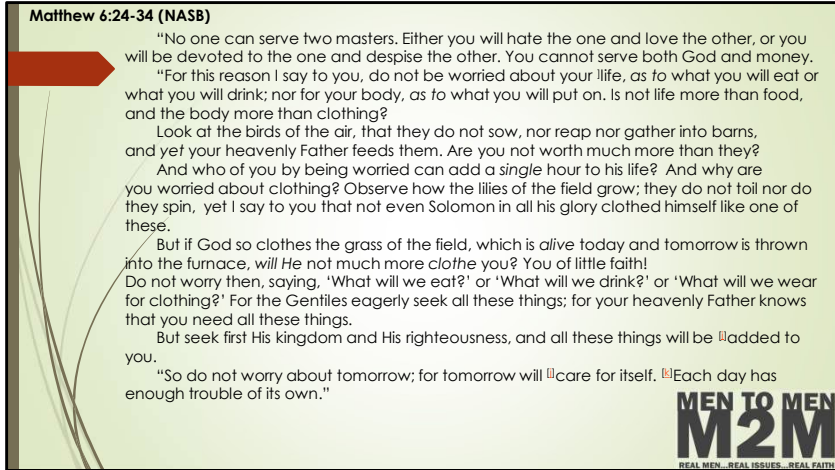


## Bible Study

Every portion or section of scripture has specific components

1. Main Point – A cohesive, concept or idea to understand
2. Arguments – statements of fact, Assumed agreement
3. Solution – a single solution for action or belief

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Anxiety is a direct result from the Decision Making process.  
Worry

Sermon on the mount  
ONE BLOCK THAT WILL HELP US>

It is about anxiety  
The result of decisions we make

Starts with a statement of fact. NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS.

there is a division within your decision. Mutually exclusive. Can't reconcile them together. It is either one or the other.

And these two worlds require you to make a decision. It is this fact that causes all your anxiety.

Makes additional statements  
Your decisions about food, drink and body and clothes are not that important

Look at the birds of the air  
Calls for conclusions  
IS Not life more that these things.

Dig in to the Scripture before us: MATTHEW 6:24-34  
**What is the main point**  
**Mark it up.....Circle what you think is the main point**

**Matthew 6:24-34 (NASB)**

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

For this reason I say to you, **do not be worried** about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

And who of you by **being worried** can add a single hour to his life? And why are you **worried** about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.


But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

**Do not worry** then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be <sup>1</sup>added to you.

So **do not worry** about tomorrow; for tomorrow will <sup>2</sup>care for itself. <sup>3</sup>Each day has enough trouble of its own."

**Main Point**



What is the main point

It is what the author wanted you to do.....

Secondly what are the arguments. Statements that help make the  
 Logical statements or even questions that bring to a conclusion....

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**Arguments**



Sermon on the mount

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The result of decisions we make

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**So do not worry about tomorrow;** for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

**Solution**

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Is not life more than that?

SO what are we called to do..... What is the first thing in Christian Decision making?

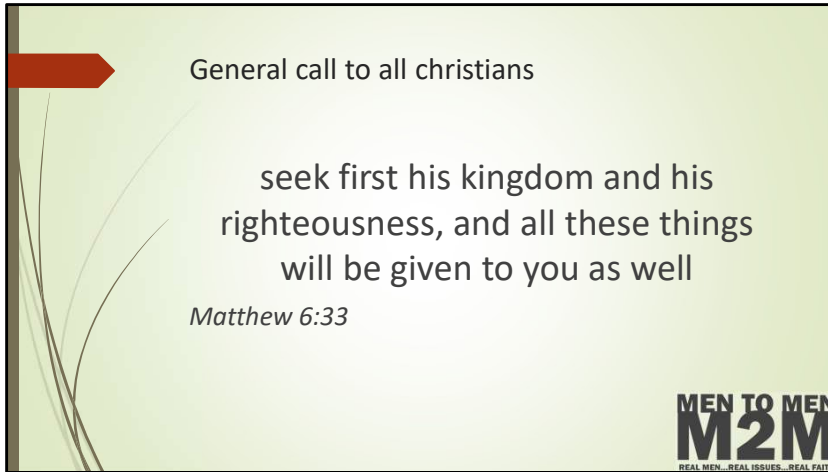


**Worry is to mentally dwell on the things and circumstances in which we think we cannot do anything about them at the present moment.**

**Solution is a decision.**

- 1. Seek first**
- 2. Tomorrow belongs to God**

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### **What is the difference between decision making and Christian Decision Making?**

The First and foremost rule, law, response, guideline, inference, in decision making.  
The first and foremost rule, law, response, guideline, inference in Christian decision making

How do we respond to this general call?

**MAKE A DECISION.....MAKE THE DECISION.**

Christianity is more than taking Jesus into your life.

Christianity is more than praising baby jesus in a manger

Christianity is more than going to church and being worshipful


General call is to SEEK FIRST

For those list makers this is a good thing.

The general call is to establish a life long goal to serve the Lord in a way/place that makes the greatest

Positive change on the kingdom of God.





## Four sequential guidelines for Christian Decision making

- Submission is requisite prior to question
  - Seek First
  - Tomorrow belongs to God.
- Specific areas of God's revealed will
- Our freewill includes responsibility
- Our moral and ethical decisions are the for the greatest impact

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The first General Call

- **Establish a life-long goal to serve the Lord in a way and a place that makes the greatest positive impact upon the Kingdom of God**

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**Establish a life-long goal to serve the Lord in a way and a place that makes the greatest positive impact upon the Kingdom of God**

Above vocation and location

Your purpose

The essence of who you are

Your personal identity

THE CALL TO ACTION

The FIRST call

To set that purpose first

It is a decision to do. It is a call to action, it is new mindset, it is end all and beginning of all

Why are you here on this earth?

Why do you exist?

What has brought you to this place"

WE are not what we do as a vocation

not a plumber

not a linesman

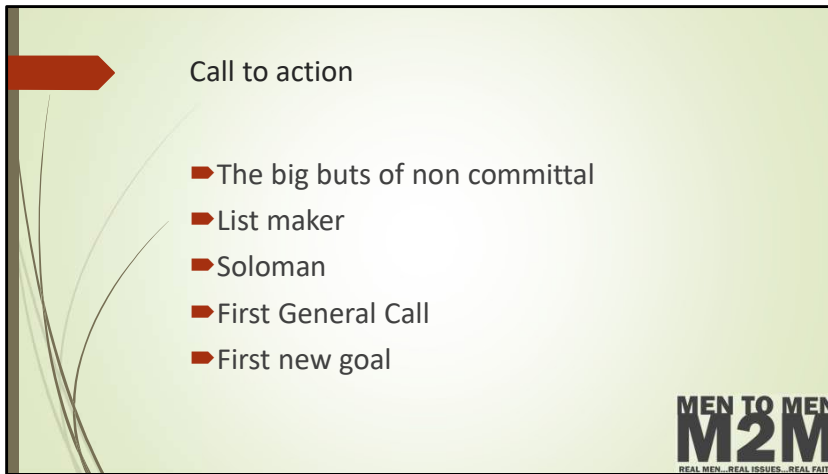
not a cook

not a iminister

not a bottle washer

YOU ARE A IMPORTANT because of your purpose.

Full of buts



I can't right now because

- I have to get out of debt
- I have to get my car fixed
- I have to take care of my kids
- I have to have a greater understanding
- I have to have more education
- I have to improve my health
- I have to clean up my act

There is an entire library of "I have to's"

All these butts just slow you down

All these butts are saying that the solution to worry and decision making takes a second place to something more important.

"Jesus was just off his game when he mentioned "Seek First" He really meant to say AFTER ALL your butts then SEEK.

I am a list maker

Seek First... Family, friends, hobbies, vocation, vacation, location, socks we wear, food we eat, exercise we do, the health we try to improve

Jesus was saying before all these things,

Where ever I am My first priority is to be a kingdom impactor

Soloman before the erosion of his life

"let your heart be fill with Jahovah.... Start here.... I KINGS 8:61

The First general call ...We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere, we are called to some one.

It is an intentional arraignment of your life AROUND the person and word of God.

Our new goal: To know God better than I know anything else

So I may delight in Him more than anything else



## Homework

- ▶ Bring back your work sheets from tonight for discussion
- ▶ Take an additional work sheet for your week
  - ▶ What stood out from this week about your spiritual walk
  - ▶ What questions came to mind you read your bible
  - ▶ Was there something that pointed you to the character or ministry of Jesus
  - ▶ Was there an idea or concept that made a difference in your week of decisions
  - ▶ Was there an idea or concept that made a difference in your actions



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