

WE ARE ALL
WITNESSES
THE BOOK OF ACTS

Walking with Jesus

Pastor Jeff Thompson | Acts 18:18–21

ICE BREAKER:

How do you usually go about making plans for your life? Are there steps you take or Bible verses that have helped you in the past?

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT:

With Paul's vow likely being a Nazarite vow (see Numbers 6:2-21), how would Paul's vow have been an encouragement to the first Christians? Avoiding legalistic duty, how does Paul model personal devotion to the Lord?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read Acts 18:20. Paul made decisions based on wisdom and personal desire within God's moral will. How does the freedom we have in Christ influence the way we approach decision-making today? Discuss the phrase: 'Love God and do what you want.'

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Which of the four sections (remember your devotion, remember your mission, do what you want, and hold things loosely) do you struggle with the most? What makes it such a struggle? How can you grow this week?

Two ways we might misapply this text for how we make decisions:

- (1) We don't do anything requiring God to give us some sort of divine sign.
 - (2) We plan and go without holding our plans loosely for the Lord to interrupt.
- Which are you more prone to do? Why do you think that is the case?

ACCOUNTABILITY:

From the Living Out The Truth section above, schedule a follow-up time to check your progress in the section in which you are growing.

PARENTING:

As we live in light of God's will, read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 as a family. God is in control, and He cares for you. As a family, spend some time together to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks.

FURTHER STUDY:

For more on God's will, read Kevin DeYoung's book: 'Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will.' A helpful article by Erik Raymond: 'Prayer in Light of God's Will'