



Sermon Title: How God Guides

Sermon Series: Building a Blessing (Capital Stewardship Campaign)

Sermon Text: Exodus 13:17-14:31

Sermon-Based Discussion

INTRODUCTION

At BCEC, we're in the midst of a campaign to seek God's will for our church. Questions abound: Should we attempt to build a new facility? Can we raise the money required in this economy? How can we be sure this is God's will?

Though this is an exciting juncture in our church's history, the questions we face now are the same ones we face every day: Is this God's will? Should I marry this person? Should we move to this place? What career should I follow?

In this session, we'll briefly examine the big topic of how God guides. In this story of we'll see God leading the children of Israel, and how that applies to how God leads His churches and individual followers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you had it your way, how far ahead into the future would you like God to show you? Why would you want that length of time?

Read Exodus 13:17-22

2. How did God lead Israel to the Promised Land, and why did He lead them that way?
3. Do you think Israel understood this? How would you feel?
4. How did Joseph's bones and the pillar of cloud encourage the children of Israel as they followed God's leading? (Consider Genesis 50:24-25 for Joseph's bones. Consider the rest of this story and Psalm 105:39 for the pillar.)
5. Throughout the passage, what does God intend the Egyptians to learn from this experience and why?

GOING DEEPER

This lesson doesn't give us a simple formula for finding out God's will. Rather, it gives us perspective on what we should seek when asking God for His will. Are we seeking God's plan, or are we seeking God? Or put it another way, do we want to know God's will for His sake to obey Him, or for our sake just to satisfy our curiosity?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Pray to God by asking Him to reveal your motives for wanting to know His will. If it's just to satisfy our curiosity, or so we can approve or disapprove of His will, then should we not repent of that? Then ask God to seek His plan for His glory, and trust He will reveal His will in His time. And God will reveal His will to gain our good and to gain His glory. Do this both for our church's expansion project as well as your individual life issues.



CHANGING YOUR MIND

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today... The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still..." (Ex. 14:13-14)