

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Acts 1.12-26 // May 8, 2022

DESCRIPTION VS. PRESCRIPTION

Jesus ascended to heaven, and now the disciples are left waiting for the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, they realize they need to fill the vacancy left by Judas' betrayal and death. This is no easy task, and the final act in choosing is by "casting lots," which is like drawing straws.

Sometimes, the Word actually *prescribes* things for us. Commands, patterns to follow, and instruction. Other times, it simply *describes* things as having happened, without necessarily condoning those things. Yet the Word can also describe things that we can pattern after. In this story, we seem to have both.

DECISIONS ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

Revealed Will of Command: God reveals in His Word His very commands: do not kill; do not gossip; flee youthful lusts; humble yourself. These are not hidden, and this is His will for us.

Concealed Will of Decree: These are the things we *wish* we knew. Some of these things He eventually reveals, and some He doesn't, yet they are all His will as He has decreed them all into being.

Deuteronomy 29.29 // Romans 12.1, 2

Hebrews 4.12 // 1 Thessalonians 2.13 // 2 Peter 1.3, 4

When our minds are transformed by the power of His Word which contains His revealed will, our will is conformed to His will. Now, our decisions concerning His concealed will are often made easier or brought into a clearer light. However, that is not always the case.

TRUSTING IN THE DARKNESS

Decisions can still be paralyzing when we are still left, like the Apostles were, with no clear solution.

- We don't prioritize knowing the concealed will of God.
 - Not that we *never* do, but we seek what is revealed first.
- We don't treat prayer as a lazy short cut.
- Rather, we are in prayer praying the Scriptures that do show us His revealed will. We ask God to help our will be aligned with His. Or, as Müller says, "to get our heart into such a state that it has no will of its own."
- Better yet, we seek this kind of prayer with others. Those who know us, who can press into us, who can see through *our* will and leanings and idols.

**The strategy to walking in God's will and plan for your life
is not a matter of knowing your future,
but a matter of trusting God today.**

NOTES:

1. I SEEK AT THE BEGINNING to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

2. HAVING DONE THIS, I do not leave the result to feeling of simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

3. I SEEK THE WILL of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

-George Müller

Announcement

Newcomer's Lunch: Whether you're brand new to Life Mission or have been coming for a while but don't feel connected within the church yet, we'd love to have you come to our Newcomer's Lunch in the courtyard, after our regular morning service on **Sunday, May 22nd**. You'll get to know our Elders over lunch, hear our story, ask any questions you may have, and learn more about how you can take your Next Step at Life Mission Church.

Please RSVP to help us plan for food: <https://lifemissionchurch.com/events/>

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

Jobey McGinty

Pastor, Preaching & Vision
jobey@lifemission.tv

Casey Barnes

Pastor, Community & Prayer
casey@lifemission.tv

Tyler Willis

Pastor, Student Ministries
tyler@lifemission.tv

Matt Piro

Worship Leader
matt@lifemission.tv

Amber Willis

Kids on Mission
amber@lifemission.tv

Brian Galloway

Administration
brian@lifemission.tv

Katie McGinty

Connection Team
katie@lifemission.tv

Sherry Henry

Finances
sherry@lifemission.tv

CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart
phone camera at
the QR Code to
access a virtual
Connection Card

MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church
420 Twin Oaks Valley Rd., #908
San Marcos, CA 92079

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **Acts 1.12-26**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Decisions can bring anxiety and stress to us. What Gospel truths are helpful for you to remind yourself of as you consider making tough decisions? Which of the actions that the Apostles engaged in are elements that you feel as if you need to do more of?

Your Life Mission

One part of God's revealed will is that are to be His witnesses. To where, and to whom, has God sent you? Who did you write down on your "Monthly Life Liturgy" that you will be pursuing in a particular way this month, and how could you use prayer to do God's will in that?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

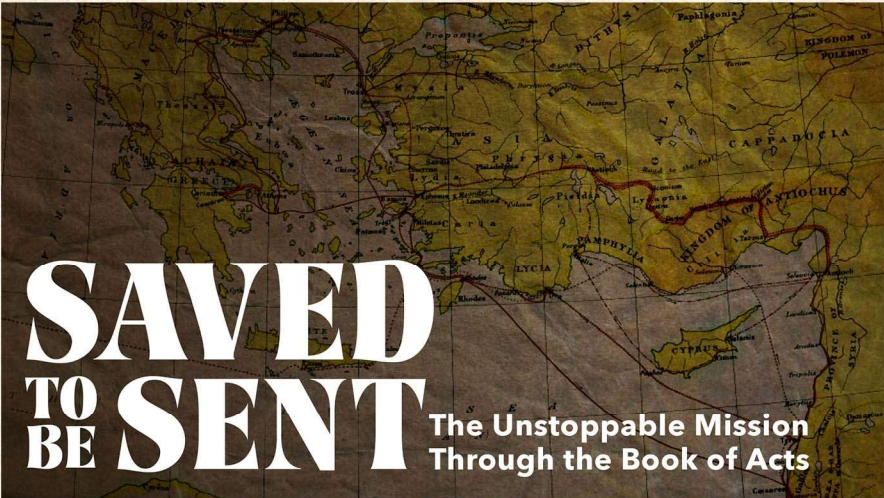
- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



LIFE MISSION

CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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