

WHEN RIGHT IS RIGHT



Has your heart told you one thing, but your mind another? Right vs Right *is* the foundation behind ethical decision making after all. It can be easy when challenged by a decision to balance the odds. Many, myself included, may even make lists of the pros and cons before weighing in on a final decision. As humans we tend to be over-thinkers. I can't disagree. But what does God say? What *is* it Jesus would do?

Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to guard our hearts with all vigilance, for from it flows the springs of life. Yet, Jeremiah 17:9 warns that the heart is deceitful above all things, and calls it "desperately sick." Which is why we can't rely on it and must FIRST look to Jesus - BEFORE our own logic.

In Luke 13, Jesus heals a woman who had been crippled for 18 years in the synagogue. The leader of the synagogue was angry and told the crowd that Jesus was wrong to heal her because it was the Sabbath, stating no work was to be done on the Sabbath. After calling out the hypocrisy, Jesus responded in Luke 13:15 by saying "...Satan has bound

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this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for eighteen years- shouldn't she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" Jesus sure did have a way of making points clear. How simple. How True. How much easier it is to see what is right when we step away from our own thoughts and fix our eyes upon Jesus. How pure thinking can become when we step away from ourselves to see the needs of others - truly see them. Did this woman not deserve a Sabbath after 18 years of bondage? Could He not provide it to her? Are there areas in our own lives where we are missing the call because we talk ourselves out of the "right" thing?

In Luke 12:35, Jesus says "Be ready for service and have your lamps lit..." He warns us to be alert, because it is important. In Luke 12:40, He says, "... the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

What if we make that our filter? What if our first step on any given day is to imagine Jesus coming. Are you ready? If we are honest there are days we put more effort into preparing for someone to come to dinner, than we do in preparing for Jesus.

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What if we started each morning by inviting Jesus to Coffee? What if we took the time to sit with Him, recognizing him as a guest in our home.

Have you invited Him into your life? Have you maybe forgotten to set His place at the table? Try setting His place. Put Him first. Prepare for His presence in your day. He wants time with us. He wants us to care for Him as He cares for us. He wants relationship. If we can simply guard our hearts, ready to serve, prepared for his presence, how much simpler the tasks of each day would be.

PRAYER: Lord, will join us for coffee this morning. Can we sit and talk a while? You are the creator of the whole universe, yet you care about us. We care about you too. We are sorry we haven't shown it in the ways we should. Help us keep our eyes fixed on you, so that we can be prepared and ready to serve. Help us light our lamps so that they may be a light for others. We pray in your sweet name, Amen.