

God's Will For Your Life
Text: John 21:18-25
March 9, 2024

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4

- a) What comes into your mind when you think of God's will for your life?
- b) What are the dangers of not grounding our thinking of this in God's Word in its proper context?
- c) Look up and share 3 passages in the Bible that describe what God's will is for our lives.
- d) How do these passages compare to what we often associate with God's calling on our lives?

Point 1: God's Will: Potential Suffering (vv. 18-19)

Question #5

- a) **Rd. vv. 18-19:** What was Jesus saying was to be Peter's calling?
- b) Even though Peter was a faithful disciple, his call was to suffer for the gospel. Why can this call be hard for us to grasp in our own lives?
- c) How does the gospel equip us to follow Jesus into this call with joy, faith, confidence, peace and hope knowing what it may cost us?
- d) Share 2-3 passages with the group that encourage you to follow Jesus wherever He leads.
- e) Spend time praying these passages over one another for courage & faith to follow Christ.

Question #6

Note: Please use your fruit to root diagram to answer the following questions.

- How do you respond when you think about counting the cost of suffering in following Jesus?
- What are you thinking in those moments that leads to that fruit?
- What is it you really want by responding in that way?
- What Gospel treasure, truth & behaviour must replace the worldly treasures, lies and behaviours?
- Spend time in prayer for one another from specific passages that address these areas.

Point 2: God's Will: His Word (vv. 23-25)

Question #6

- Rd vv. 23-25:** What was John (in v. 25) testifying about who Jesus is?
- What do vv. 24-25 imply to us about what God's will/call is for our lives?
- Why is knowing and proclaiming Jesus the greatest call/prize we could ever have? (Phil. 3:7-10)
- What next step can you take this week to know Jesus through His Word more intimately?
- What next step can you take this week to proclaim Jesus through His Word?

Point 3: God's Will: Obedience (vv. 20-22)

Question #7

- Rd vv. 20-22:** Do you struggle with the comparison trap? When are you most tempted with this?
- What are the fruits of engaging the comparison trap as we see other believers?
- How do these things hinder our obedience to Christ and fulfilling our calling from Him?
- Why is it essential to believe in the goodness, love and grace of God for you in those moments?
- Spend time in prayer for one another to bring these areas before the Lord, repent of unbelief, asking Him for increased faith and submission to Him and thanking Him for His goodness and love for you.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- REVERENCE** before God: Jesus, I praise you because You are_____.
- CONFESSION** before God: Jesus, I repent of: **i)** My unwillingness to count the cost of____. **ii)** My distractions from being a 'person of the book' when____. **iii)** My sinful fruit of____ when I compare myself to others when____. **iv)** My unbelief in your love and goodness towards me when_____.
- THANKSGIVING:** Jesus, thank You for showing your goodness and love towards me through____. **ii)** Your Word that____ **iii)** Your call on my life to know You and proclaim You.
- SUPPLICATION** to God: Jesus, I ask for: **i)** Love, faith, joy and courage in counting whatever cost to follow You. **ii)** A greater hunger/desire for Your Word and to proclaim it. **iii)** Faith to trust You and follow You no matter Your work in another's life.

Memory Verse:

"Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!'"
-John 21:22

