

Guided by God

Script - Ps. 119:11-16

- A. Peter and the temple tax (Mt. 17:24-27). This story illustrates some of the principles he ran his life by.
1. The temple leaders approached Peter because they were laying a trap for Jesus.
 2. Peter was unaware of all the implications about Jesus paying the temple tax so when he answered he inadvertently said the wrong thing.
 3. Jesus talked to Peter privately about the misunderstanding and illustrated the importance of following Mt. 18:15-17 to maintain good relationships and not cause misunderstanding and division.
 4. Jesus paid the tax, he didn't have to pay (Ex. 30:11-14; Deut. 10:9). Going the extra mile (Mt. 5:39-41; 1 Cor. 8:9). Again using a policy to guide his life.
 5. Jesus did it in a way that would be a positive witness to Peter and to anyone else that heard about it, including the Pharisees. Therefore exercising faith Heb. 10:38).
- C. What can we learn?
1. How do I make decisions? How can I make the best decisions? If I run my life by policies and principles from God's word then they will be good decisions that are based on solid and sure principles tried and true.
 2. This means I have to know what those policies and principles are so I need to be not only taking time for study but also for reflection and meditation so the Holy Spirit has time to help me gain understanding (Ps. 49:3).
 3. Like Peter we might not have a complete understanding of the decisions we make but God will grant us additional wisdom if we seek it from him. He will also forgive our mistakes if we ask him to (1 Jn. 1:9; Micah 7:19).
 4. God is aware of what we go through just like he was aware of the trap the temple leaders laid for Peter (Mt. 10:30-31; Ps. 46:1; 1 Pet. 5:7).
 5. In all things Jesus worked to restore a broken relationship between man and God and draw people closer together (Jn. 12:32) and if we always evaluate what we are doing in the light of drawing people to God we will gain insights from God of how to accomplish the task.