



SCRIPTURE USE

JANUARY 10-16
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GOD IS IN CONTROL

ISAIAH 30:21

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

What does this verse mean to you?

What are some of the things that you believe hinder us from hearing the “voice behind us”?

Be honest. If you heard God calling you to do something really difficult, would you “walk in it”? Why? Why not?

Vision

Have you ever blown it? I don’t mean one of those “I forgot my homework assignments” kinda mess ups, I’m talking, “....wow... that’s... just really bad,” kinda mess ups. The kind of mess up that you can’t do anything but just get sick to your stomach and wait for the consequences. I was somewhat of a troubled early teenager, so this was a pretty constant reality for me. I lived in Virginia, and like so many troubled sentences begin, “I liked this girl.” This girl lived five hours away from me, and my parents weren’t excited about that fact. In my defense, neither was I!

Anyway, the romantic that I am, I told my parents I was going to stay at my friend, Toby’s, house, and instead, I drove clear across the state, picked up the girl I liked, and together we took a small vacation to NEW YORK! For some reason, I thought my parents would never find out. Romantic and naive.

My parents did find out. Things were messed up for a while. By God’s grace, I survived and am here with you today.

It’s crazy how much impact our decisions carry. The choices you make today will send ripples LITERALLY into eternity. I think

that’s why we are so hesitant to make decisions sometimes. Sometimes it really feels like if we move forward in any direction, whether together or alone, that we can somehow find a way to mess up God’s plan. I’m not talking about the kind of decisions like, should I have chocolate pudding or vanilla pudding for lunch today (mostly because the correct answer is vanilla pudding always) but I’m talking, Should I speak up? Should I stay quiet? ***We want to do what’s right, but sometimes both sides of the coins seem pretty shiny.***

One of my favorite verses in Scripture is spoken by a man named Job. You may know his story. Job was living for God, so much so that God believed in Job, more than Job did. He allowed very hard things to take place in Job’s life, like the loss of ALL his children, the loss of all his wealth, and even the sickest case of boils you could ever imagine. The rest of the book is a wrestling match. Job’s heart is broken, and He has some harsh words for God. He feels betrayed, and he feels alone. Can you relate? Finally, after God speaks to Job, Job confesses a beautiful truth. “I know that you can do all things; ***no plan of yours can be thwarted.***” (Job 42:2) Do you believe that? Will you rest in the freedom that offers?