

Improving Our Marriages
Lesson 5 – Making Wise Decisions (Part 1)
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Introduction: Our future will largely be decided by decisions we make.

A. We must chose and establish a foundation for making decisions.

(Prov 1:7; Rom 8:5-6)

1. As we completely commit to God’s way He will bless us with wisdom.
(Ps 119:57-58, 103-104, 129-130)
2. We are not a Solomon nor would we be wise to pursue that path of Solomon.
We are urged to take the “short-cut” and accept his conclusion. **(Ecc 12:13)**

B. Wisdom is the ability to see the underlying causes of consequences in life.

1. What is *the overriding goal for your marriage*? As a Christian it must be to guide all within that home to heaven. We are “heirs of life together.” **(1 Pt 3:7)**
2. We *will be tested in our goals*. We must constantly be seeking God’s wisdom as long as we live. The world will try to impart another kind of “wisdom.”
3. What was characteristic of the worthy woman? **(Prov 4:5-8; 31:26-27)**

I. We must seek wisdom in managing money

A. The Bible is filled with wisdom concerning managing money.

1. Money is a means by which things of value may be exchanged.
2. When we speak of money we speak of the ability to acquire things.
3. How we view and handle money is a real test of the heart.

(Ps 15:1-5; 1 Tim 6:10)

B. We should be committed to providing for our own family.

(Eph 4:28; 1 Tim 5:8; 2 Thess 3:7-10)

1. There must be a strong work ethic to provide. This is a major problem for many men in this culture. There should be no excuse for sitting at home doing nothing!
2. While man is the primary breadwinner, there is also a place for the woman in providing an income within limits. Consider the worthy woman.
(Prov 31:13, 16, 24)
3. There are great consequences for the home where there is no work ethic.

C. We must learn to live within our means. **(1 Tim 6:6-9)**

1. What does God say concerning the standard with which we should be content?
2. How does the world teach us a very different standard? How has the church changed from your knowledge in the last 50 years?
3. What factors drive us to spend more than we make?

D. Some wisdom from God concerning money.

1. Plan, save and then spend. Avoid debt! **(Prov 22:7, 26-27; Rom 13:8)**
2. Be willing to help others in real need. **(Deut 15:7-11)**
3. Watch your heart and do not let your possessions rule you.
(Mt 6:24; Ecc 5:10-12)
4. Do not let money issues cause you to sacrifice the time and effort you need to spend on essential things.

II. We must seek wisdom in assigning common tasks.

- A. The wisdom that God gives is always seeking to serve and willing to yield for the good of another. **(James 3:17-18)**
1. If we are not seeking to serve our mate then we are not acting as a Christian!
 2. There is a great need to communicate and make wise decisions so we can best serve one another.
 3. Without communication we will fall back to what we learned about marriage in our homes. (Ex. Mother always did all house work and Dad brought home a paycheck and then watched TV and repaired things.)
- B. What tasks are to be assigned to whom? Wisdom is needed.
1. Who should manage the checkbook? Do the dishes? Make investment decisions? Spank a child in a particular instance?
 2. Man is the head of the home and as the head he should seek wisdom in the decisions making process. **(Eph 5:22-23)**
 3. Discuss how good decisions are made.
 4. What happens when one mate ends up carrying a heavy load while the other has it easy? Can that situation always be avoided?
 5. Watch out for envy and resentment! **(Titus 3:3-4)**

III. We must seek wisdom in our relationship to our in-laws

- A. Before marriage we must be committed to forming a separate home. **(Gen 2:24; Mt 19:5)**
1. If your mate believes that you are more committed to your parents than to him/her then there will be trouble.
 2. What are some common “mistakes” or temptations concerning the attitudes and actions of in-laws towards their children’s new home?
 3. You may not be able to change improper behavior on the part of the in-laws. You can be sure to have the right attitude towards your home!
- B. Some wisdom concerning our relatives.
1. The mother-daughter relationship is special. Work hard to provide for it and maintain it.
 2. Agree among yourselves (husband/wife) what is the proper bounds (visiting time, sharing of information) and stick with it!

Questions

1. What foundation must we build before we can make wise decisions?
2. Should we have an overall goal for the direction of our marriage? How can we know if we are serious about our stated goal?
3. What place does money have in having a happy marriage? What are some common mistakes made concerning money?
4. What common tasks must be met In a marriage? How should decisions be made concerning who does what?
5. How does the example of our parents affect us in these decisions?
6. Why must our home be independent from our parents’ home? What happens when we allow our parents to improperly dictate decisions we should be making?