

Date: June 28, 2026

Title: Trusting God with the Unknown

Passage: Genesis 46

Summary:

I. We should seek God's direction before making major decisions (v.1-4)

II. Remember His blessings (v.5-27)

III. We learn that faith means obeying God even when the future remains unclear. (v. 28-34)

Key Truths:

- When we face the unknown, we should seek the Lord in a godly way.
- You don't know what the future holds but you know Who (God) holds the future.
- Trust in God however hard it is to see the future beyond what you can see.

Biblical guidance in seeking God's will for you:

- Look at God's Word and see what the Bible says about that possible choice.
- Ask the wisdom and counsel of other people (preferably three) who are trustworthy and have experience in life.
- Confirmation for a decision comes through the provisions that God offers to carry out the task that He put on your heart to do.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How has God helped you in key decision making in the past?
- How can you trust in the sovereign goodness of God's heart in your present pain or difficult trial?
- What would you appreciate prayer for about your future?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Question: Have you ever wanted God to give you specific direction in your life?

- Often we want God to give us a detailed roadmap for the future.
 - We want certainty before obedience.

Question: How do we know God's will when the future is uncertain?

- How do we trust God when He doesn't reveal the whole plan?
 - Do we open the Bible at random?

- Do we look to our circumstances?
 - There's a desire to seek God's will but it really falls at more superstitions or on one's own wisdom.

Context of Passage:

Jacob previously thought his son was dead but is told his son is now head minister of Egypt and is also told there are many years of famine to come.

- But He also knows God's promise that Canaan is God's promised land for him and his family.

Key Point: When we face the unknown, we should seek the Lord in a godly way.

- We should learn to trust in God's revealed promises when God doesn't reveal the whole plan. Trust in His character and His will one step at a time.

Passage:

Genesis 46

EXPOSITION

Biblical Steps for Guidance:

1. Look at God's Word and see what the Bible says about that possible choice.
2. Ask the wisdom and counsel of other people who are trustworthy and have experience in life
3. Confirmation for a decision comes through the provisions that God offers to carry out the task that He put on your heart to do (v. 2-4)

I. WE SHOULD SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION BEFORE MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS IN LIFE (v.1-4)

Genesis 46:1-4

So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

Beersheba

- Special place where both Isaac (Jacob's father) and Abraham (Jacob's grandfather) had sought the LORD.

Genesis 26:23-24

From there he went up to Beersheba. And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake."

- While God is omnipresent, God chose to reveal Himself in special places (ex: Bethel) in the Old Testament.
- Today: God does not reside in places but in people and among His people.

and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

- Why? Jacob wanted to purge his household of sin.
 - Jacob knows that God is holy.
- For what reason? Jacob was seeking God's guidance as to whether to stay or to go to Egypt.
 - Jacob previously lived his life without seeking God.
 - When he sought his father's birthright, he and his mother tricked his father rather than seeking God's guidance.
 - Here: Jacob learned to seek God's guidance.

And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob."

- God responds to Jacob's sacrifices and Jacob being there.

Question: How do we obtain God's guidance today?

Biblical Steps for Guidance:

1. Look at God's Word and see what the Bible says about that possible choice.

- God's revealed Word is in the Bible.
 - Not through any special meditation or process.
- God has already given us everything we need.

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

- God's Word reveals us who God is.

God's word is sufficient.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- God gives enough light for the next step in your life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- You have everything you need in God's Word.

2. Ask the wisdom and counsel of other people who are trustworthy and have experience in life

- Seek advice from at least 3 sources of godly wisdom with godly track records.
 - Don't just discuss only with your circle of friends.

Objection: I don't want other people to know about my life.

- Truth: Living wisely involves seeking godly counsel.

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 20:18a

Plans are established by counsel;

Examples:

Relocating for a better job or choosing a school.

- You should instead look for a good church first.
 - What is it worth to have a bigger house but your soul is not taken care of?

3. Confirmation for a decision comes through the provisions that God offers to carry out the task that He put on your heart to do (v. 2-4)

- Under God, nothing is done haphazardly in your life.
 - All of your experiences and your skills are for a purpose.

- You see how God has already provided in your life in how to go forward.

God loves you. He loves to respond to you.

- "God is always more eager to answer than we are to ask. God is always more eager to guide than we are to follow." (James Montgomery Boice)

I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

- God's greatest assurance for tomorrow is that He is with you.
 - You don't know what the future holds but you know Who (God) holds the future.
 - Trust in God however hard it is to see the future beyond what you can see.
- God's revealed will should always take priority over His hidden will.
- How to know God's will?
 - Ask yourself: Am I always obeying God's revealed will?
 - Our search for guidance should always begin there.
 - The more you know God's Word, the closer you know God and His heart. You already know what pleases Him.

II. REMEMBER HIS BLESSINGS (v.5-27)

Genesis 46:5-7

Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob, their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt...

Genesis 46:26-27

All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

In making a decision, it is natural to be afraid as to what the future is going to be like.

- Here, Jacob brought everything with him.
 - With all Jacob's belongings, he is reminded that God has provided everything we need.
- Likewise, trust in God.
 - As God has taken care of you in your past, God will take care of you in the future.

All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

- Why noted as "seventy"?
 - God wants to use the nation of Israel to bless the world.
 - See Genesis 10 (lists 70 patriarchal founders representing all the nations of the earth)
 - New Testament: Jesus sent out seventy disciples

III. WE LEARN THAT FAITH MEANS OBEYING GOD EVEN WHEN THE FUTURE REMAINS UNCLEAR. (v. 28-34)

Genesis 46:28-34

He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive." Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Previously, all that Jacob heard was to come to Egypt.

- Upon arrival, he learns that the Egyptians despise shepherds so they are to be separated from the Egyptian population.

for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

- They were in Canaan and they were starting to assimilate and mingle among the pagans.
 - God then took them out of Canaan and brought them to a place where they could stay separate and not assimilate yet also grow and flourish.

- Likewise, God has often protected you by not staying where you were.

Summary

Seek God in prayer and in His Word

Find 2-3 godly people who have good stewardship in their lives and ask their opinion.

Has God provided logistically and this makes sense.

But what if you proceed and the plans fail?

- See Paul's missionary journey with Silas. They were beaten and thrown in jail.

Acts 16:22-24

The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

- They could have despaired.

Acts 16:25

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

- But instead they trusted God and sang songs in praise and lead to a greater testimony of His grace and power. (The jailer and his family were saved)

When things do not go well:

- You still have peace knowing that you have followed the lead of God because you have read the Scriptures, followed godly counsel, and worked through it all, then:
 - Able to fully trust God knowing He is using all circumstances for a purpose and all according to His plan.
 - Trust God with tomorrow because He holds tomorrow and He holds you in His hands.
 - Trust in God's heart and in His sovereignty.