

Be Neither Indecisive or Impulsive

“My wisdom absent of God’s wisdom is nothing more than a best-guess.”

I heard a recent radio interview of Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred. He was questioned about possible rules changes to the game of baseball. It seems that scoring is down so the public wants a quick fix. Some of the ideas suggested would be dramatic changes to the game. The reason why changes are being considered is to counteract the fact that teams are exploiting the use of analytical data to chart tendencies of the players. The public reacts with “knee jerk” solutions, some very radical. Decision makers need to be more deliberate. The Commissioner was careful to point out that we need to thoroughly evaluate the potential effect of rules changes before implementing them. His concern is that changes may create more problems than they solve and could affect the “integrity of the game.” He wants to avoid impulsive decision making.

The Bible tells us that being indecisive is a sign of an unstable person, not willing to address a problem (*James 1:5-8 below*). On the opposite extreme the Bible also warns us about impulsive decisions. *For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers (Proverbs 11:14)*. The book of Proverbs urges us to not merely get a second opinion before making a decision, but to seek multiple perspectives of people from a variety of backgrounds. Pastor Tim Keller says, “To devise creative solutions you have to foresee all the problems and generate all possible options. No two or three people will be able to do that.”

Decision Making



I serve on the Board of Aldermen in my community. Many of our meetings go very long as we weigh many options to issues at hand. The discussions may be lengthy as we try to determine the ramifications of each option being considered.

The middle ground of being indecisive or impulsive is to be “prudent.” A definition of a prudent person is “wise or judicious in practical affairs and careful in providing for the future.” Being people of faith we need to bring God into the discussion. Author Craig D. Lounsbrough wrote, “My wisdom absent of God’s wisdom is nothing more than a best-guess.” Only God knows what is truly best.

Data is helpful to understand an issue, but it has its limitations. Numbers can be manipulated and interpreted to prove any point. When making decisions, consider the effect they will have on people. Even more important: what is the right thing to do? You can’t legislate what is right – you just have to do it. Seek direction from God and also people of the faith. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6)*. Godly wisdom, combined with the experiences of others, makes for a prudent decision.

Question: Do you have advisers that give a wide variety of opinions and come from different backgrounds? Where is God in your decision making process?

The Bible Says: *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do (James 1:5-8)*

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We are constantly asked to make decisions. We pray that we will be prudent, avoiding impulsiveness and indecisiveness. Let us seek your guidance and consider the counsel of as many people as possible when we have the opportunity to make important decisions. Amen.