

10th Annual Ladies Retreat

Days That Demand Discernment

"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands."

Proverbs 14:1 NASB

Speaker: **Scott Maxwell**

September 6-7, 2014
Saturday 9:15am - Sunday 12:00pm



Retreat Schedule

Saturday

Session One

9:30-12:00

Gainey Room

Lunch

12:00-1:00

Hearth Room

Session Two

1:30-3:00

Gainey Room

Free Time & Check In

3:00-6:00

Dinner

6:00-7:00

Gainey Room

Session Three

7:15-9:00

Gainey Room

Sunday

Breakfast on your own (continental)

7:00-9:00

Hearth Room

Session Four

9:15 -11:30

Gainey Room

Check out

11:30-12:00

Message 1 - Days That Demand Discernment

Ephesians 5:15-16

“Days That Demand Discernment”

Saturday Morning, September 6, 2014

INTRODUCTION: What do you think about these days we live in?

I. Do you believe these days are evil, Ephesians 5:16b?

II. How should you walk through evil days, Ephesians 5:15-16a?

1. *Walk carefully, Ephesians 5:15a.*

2. *Walk wisely, Ephesians 5:15b.*

3. *Walk effectively, Ephesians 5:16a.*

Message 2 - Some Basics on Wisdom

Miscellaneous Scriptures

“Days That Demand Discernment”

Saturday Afternoon, September 6, 2014

I. The rough crowd around wisdom in these evil days, Proverbs 1:22.

Do you know:

➔ The naive.

➔ The fool.

➔ The scoffer.

II. An introduction to wisdom from Proverbs.

1. What wisdom is not.

2. What wisdom is.

Message 3 - The Fallacy of “Finding” God’s Will

Miscellaneous Scriptures

“Days That Demand Discernment”

Saturday Evening, September 6, 2014

INTRODUCTION:

I. God’s will in Scripture.

1. God’s revealed will.

➔ *God’s commands reveal His will.* (First sub-category of God’s revealed will)

Matthew 7:21.

1 Thessalonians 5:18.

1 Thessalonians 4:3.

➔ *God’s broad intentions for believers reveal His will.* (Second sub-category of God’s revealed will)

Romans 12:2.

➔ **God's plan for human history reveals His will.** (Third sub-category of God's revealed will)

Galatians 1:4.

Ephesians 1:9-10.

Summary:

2. God's unrevealed will.

Proverbs 16:1, 3, 9; 19:21; 20:24.

Romans 15:30-32; 1:9-10.

Acts 18:20-21; 1 Corinthians 4:18-19.

James 4:13-15.

Conclusion:

II. Man-centered attempts to “find God’s will” in decision making.

- 1. The purely pragmatic approach.**
- 2. The “lucky-dip” approach with Scripture.**
- 3. The prophecy approach.**
- 4. The peaceful approach.**
- 5. The opened or closed door approach.**
- 6. The sign-seeking approach.**

Observations and Conclusions:

III. Decision making informed by Scripture.

1. In God's strength, be obedient to God's revealed will (commands, broad intentions).

2. Pray for wisdom.

3. Gather information and counsel.

4. Does the Bible speak directly to my decision?

5. How does the Bible speak indirectly to my decision?

6. Humbly follow your desire and decide.

Message 4 - Discerning Books (and Blogs)

(Before “drinking deeply” from a book or blog. . .)

“Days That Demand Discernment”

Sunday Morning, September 7, 2014

1. Assess your own spiritual condition.

- The point: The kind of believer I am matters! What I should or should not read is influenced by my spiritual condition. Ask yourself the following questions:
 - ✓ What spiritual trajectory am I currently on? As I look back on the recent weeks, months, etc., where has my heart and decisions taken me?
 - ✓ What do mature believers around me say about my present spiritual condition? My trajectory? Have I received warnings from them? What do I hear from them? Which kind of believer am I according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (unruly, fainthearted, weak)? Based on that, what do I need most (admonishment, encouragement, help)?
 - ✓ As of late, have there been any expressions of simple-mindedness, foolishness, or mockery that I need to address?
 - ✓ What place has Scripture held in my daily and weekly life as of late? Has it been central to my life? Or peripheral?
 - ✓ What has been my view of and attitude toward Scripture lately?
 - ✓ Have other books/blogs bumped Bible reading to the curb of my life?
 - ✓ What has my view of sin been lately? What has my practice been when I am aware of sin in my life? Have I been quick to confess and begin repentance? Or have I been defensive?
 - ✓ Etc.

2. Temporarily disassociate the subject of the book/blog from the author to examine the subject alone in Scripture.

- Sometimes an author’s name generates interest in us about a subject. We are drawn to the subject more by the author’s name than we are the subject itself. Recognize the possibility exists that this author’s treatment of the subject may not be the best there is to read. Have a category for this (that you might be more drawn to a specific author’s treatment of a subject than the best author’s treatment of the subject).
- Do your best first to turn through the pages of your Bible first to hear what God’s word says about the subject. This will accomplish the following for you:
 - ✓ You will become familiar and aligned with Scripture sooner than later on the subject, not being introduced to the Scriptures for the first time by the author. You will be more fortified to recognize the author’s use or misuse of Scripture on the subject.
 - ✓ It will train you to love and listen first to Scripture itself than other men’s comments on subjects.
 - ✓ It potentially can keep you from rashly and unnecessarily jumping on the latest fad or trendy author’s bandwagon.

3. Now assess the author treating the subject along biblical categories.

- The point: The kind of believer the author is matters! What I should or should not read is influenced by his/her spiritual condition. Ask yourself the following questions about the author:
 - ✓ What spiritual trajectory have they been on? Do your best to find out what you can. . .
 - ✓ What do other mature believers say about the author's lifestyle, writings, ministry, etc.?
 - ✓ What is the author's view of Scripture? High? Low? Hard to tell? How does the author handle God's word?
 - ✓ What is the author's view of sin? What is the author's remedy for sin? Is he/she clear about that or fuzzy?
 - ✓ Etc.
- This may mean that you have to browse some of the book itself before you devour it. Sometimes the author gives everything away about himself or herself in the preface (Sarah Young, "Jesus Calling"). Recognize that one author can have a varied accuracy on different subjects. Also recognize that an author may not always remain in such a spiritual condition or ability to treat subjects biblically. An author may begin his/her writing ministry treating subjects biblically but then become weak over time. Another author can begin poorly but then grow stronger in addressing subjects biblically. Does the author under consideration fit in either of those two categories? If so, where does the author's work you're considering fall? Have a category that an author's trustworthiness and effectiveness or helpfulness can fluctuate with time.

4. Select the book/blog that is best on the subject.

- Operate by the principle in Philippians 1:9-11 (select what is best). That may mean you choose the very book and author you have been considering. It may mean you choose another author's book. Either way, you were careful before you began "drinking deeply" from that author's well. . . Now, drink deeply and enjoy!

5. Recommending a book/blog?

- Would you like to recommend a book/blog to another believer? Has another believer asked you to recommend a book/blog for them to read? First, go through 1-3 above for yourself. The kind of believer you are will affect what kind of resources you recommend. Then, **assess the believer you'd like to make a recommendation to** by asking these kinds of questions:
 - ✓ What spiritual trajectory are they on? Looking back on the recent weeks and months, where has their heart and decisions led them?
 - ✓ What are mature believers saying about their spiritual trajectory? Have they been teachable? Discouraged? Weak? What kind of believer are they according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (unruly, fainthearted, weak)? Based on that, what do they need most (admonishment, encouragement, help)?
 - ✓ What place has Scripture held in their life on a daily and weekly place lately?
 - ✓ What is their attitude toward Scripture overall?
 - ✓ Has the Bible been bumped to the curb by many books and blogs lately? What place does the Bible hold in their life alongside other books and blogs?
 - ✓ What has their view of sin been lately? What has been their practice when they become aware of sin in their life?
 - ✓ In their life, have there been any expressions of simple-mindedness, foolishness, or mockery that need to be addressed?
 - ✓ Etc.
- See #4 (select what is best, Philippians 1:9-11).

General principles to keep in mind:

- ➔ Recognize that fads/trends come and go. . . Where is "The Prayer of Jabez" now?? Be careful to not make a selection because it is trendy. Does the author appear more trendy or time-tested?
- ➔ Recognize that subjects are often written while the author is swinging from one evangelical distortion to another.
- ➔ Doctrinal errors often come through the over-emphasis of one truth at the neglect of another truth. Listen for how the author is not addressing companion/completing truths as he addresses the one truth.
- ➔ Have a category that books/blogs can be widely-mixed within (where some of the book is really good, while other parts are not helpful at all). Be careful before reading these and before recommending them to others. You may be able to recommend to one believer such a work but then not want to recommend it to another believer. Just because you found parts helpful doesn't mean everyone else will too. Be careful. . .

Message 5 - Putting Discernment in Its Place

Philippians 1:9-11

“Days that Demand Discernment”

Sunday Evening, September 7, 2014

INTRODUCTION:

8 statements to help you better understand what discernment is:

1. Discernment is deficient without abounding love for others, 1:9a.
2. Discernment is partnered with “serious” knowledge, 1:9b.
3. Discernment is spiritual perception, 1:9b.
4. Discernment should not exist in limited quantities, 1:9b.

Session 1

BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God seated on His throne

Come let us adore Him

Behold our King, nothing can compare

Come let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill)

MIGHTY, MIGHTY SAVIOR

No one is good
No one is holy before God
I need someone to cleanse me
No one is pure
No one is righteous in Your sight
I need someone to save me
But I'm so glad You died and rose again
For helpless sinners like me

What a mighty, mighty Savior You are

What a mighty, mighty Savior You are

You can wash away my sin

You can change my heart within

What a mighty, mighty Savior You are

Sin is too strong
For me to conquer on my own
I need someone to help me
I am too weak
I cannot change my evil heart
I need someone to save me
But I'm so glad You died and rose again
For helpless sinners like me

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in power to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou
art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true
Word
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright
Heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

Session 3

GRACE AND PEACE

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?
For lawbreakers and thieves, for the
worthless, the least
You have said that our judgement is death
For all eternity without hope, without rest
Oh, What an amazing mystery, what an
amazing mystery
That Your grace has come to me

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?
The matchless King of all paid the blood
price for me
Slaughtered Lamb, what atonement You
bring!
The vilest sinner's heart can be cleansed,
can be free
Oh, What an amazing mystery, what an
amazing mystery
That Your grace has come to me

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?
Let songs of gratefulness ever rise, never
cease
Loved by God and called as a saint
My heart is satisfied in the riches of Christ
Oh, What an amazing mystery, what an
amazing mystery
That Your grace has come to me

Oh, what an amazing love I see, what an
amazing love I see
That Your grace has come to me

I WILL GLORY IN MY REDEEMER

I will glory in my Redeemer
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails
And hung Him on that judgment tree
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death
My only Savior before the Holy Judge
The Lamb Who is my righteousness
The Lamb Who is my righteousness

I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns
I have no longings for another
I'm satisfied in Him alone
I will glory in my Redeemer
His faithfulness my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon
me
My feet are firm, held by His grace
My feet are firm, held by His grace

I will glory in my Redeemer
Who carries me on eagles' wings
He crowns my life with lovingkindness
His triumph song I'll ever sing
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me it will be paradise
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me it will be paradise
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold

SHOW US CHRIST

Prepare our hearts, O God
Help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground
Help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us
Cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear
Lead us in Your truth

***Show us Christ, show us Christ
O God, reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord***

Your Word is living light
Upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations
Makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones
Freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul
Come speak to us today

Where else can we go, Lord
Where else can we go
You have the words of eternal life
Where else can we go, Lord
Where else can we go
You have the words of eternal life

Session 4

REVELATION SONG

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, Holy,
Holy is He
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

***Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing, "Praise to the King of kings!"
You are my everything and I will adore You***

Grace and mercy, lovingkindness
All will bow at Your feet
Blessing and honor, strength and glory
and power be
To You, the only wise King

I'm filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and
Living Water
Such a marvelous mystery

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken
All to leave and follow Thee
Destitute, despised, forsaken
Thou from hence my all shall be
Perish every fond ambition
All I've sought or hoped or known
Yet how rich is my condition
God and heaven are still my own

Let the world despise and leave me
They have left my Savior, too
Human hearts and looks deceive me
Thou are not, like them, untrue
O while Thou dost smile upon me
God of wisdom, love, and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me
Show Thy face and all is bright

Go, then, early fame and treasure
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather
All must work for good to me

Haste thee on from grace to glory
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer
Heaven's eternal days before thee
God's own hand shall guide us there
Soon shall close thy earthly mission
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise

JESUS, THANK YOU

The mystery of the cross I cannot
comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One crushed Your
Son
Drank the bitter cup reserved for me

Your blood has washed away my sin

Jesus, thank You

The Father's wrath completely satisfied

Jesus, thank You

Once Your enemy now seated at Your table

Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought
near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious
grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no
end

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You
Lover of my soul, I want to live for You