

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES:       **Acts: To Be Continued**  
TITLE:         **Following God's Will**  
DATE:         March 13, 2016  
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In Acts, Luke shows Jesus' friends continuing the kingdom mission that Jesus started in his earthly life and ministry. The Book of Acts is all about Jesus' followers continuing his mission in the world. We are the ones God has entrusted with carrying the message of Jesus forward.

**Today, we look at Acts 21:17-40.** Continuing with what we learned last week, we look at what it means to follow God's will for our lives, using 6 basic principles to guide us.

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### Review:

- Jesus was a man who knew the Father's will for his life. He knew why he had been sent from heaven into this world.
- The Apostle Paul, a persecutor of Christians turned preacher of the Gospel, lived his life in the same way Jesus lived His life. He resolved to understand and follow God's will for his life just like Jesus did. He submitted his will to God's will, no matter what it cost him.
- God's Situational Will: We often become really concerned about discerning what God wants us to do *in a specific situation or circumstance*.
- "We have to be ok with submitting an unknown future to a known God." - *Corrie ten Boom*

### Six Principles for Following God's Will:

1. When it comes to understanding and God's will, God is not playing a game of connect the dots with you.
2. When it comes to understanding God's will, our biggest problem is that our *demand* for comfort and our *desire* for perfect clarity get in the way.
3. When you want God's will more than you want your will, then in time, God will make the next step clear to you.
4. When you want God's will more than you want your will, and you resolve to follow His will no matter what, you can't make a mistake.
5. When it comes to following God's will for your life, there will be times when you have to make a judgment call.

*To make these kinds of judgment calls, you have to hold two questions in tension:*

How can we display grace as we hold to the truth?

How can we hold to the truth as we display grace?

"I never have to water down truth to display grace and I never have to lack grace to declare truth." - Jonathan Parker

6. When you resolve to follow God's will no matter what, embrace the fact that God's non-interventions are part of His will for your life.

### Big Idea:

God's will for your life is to make Jesus' mission your mission, to let His grace and truth flow in and through you for the benefit of others. If you submit your will to His will in every circumstance of life, you'll be okay in good times and bad.

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### For Discussion:

1. Can you think of a specific circumstance in your life where you sought God's will in that situation, and had to step out in faith, trusting God to make the next step clear?
2. Have you ever had a situation like Charlie described where you had to make a judgement call in order to both display grace and hold to the truth?
3. In resolving to follow God's will for your life, how have you embraced the times in your life when God didn't miraculously intervene?
4. In what ways can you resolve to follow God's will for your life, making Jesus' mission your mission?