



P-A-U-S-E Before You Act!

Calvary Baptist Church

August 7, 2011

Proverbs 18:13



I. P – Pray (Mt. 26:39)

Have I taken this matter to the Lord in prayer and have I waited for His leading?

A. Prayer Can Stop Us (Acts 16:1-7)

B. Prayer Can Start Us (Acts 10:9-23; 13:1-3)

APPLICATION (2 Sam. 2:1; 5:19; 1 Chr. 14:13-14; Isa. 58:11; Jn. 8:12; James 1:5)

- Note in these verses the idea that God can not only start and stop us, but he can steer us!

APPLY! – How about you? Do you have a habit of rushing into things that you later regret?

II. A – Attitude (1 Sam. 25:17; Prov. 3:7; 14:16; 16:32; 22:24; 25:28; 29:11)

Have I waited until my emotions and my spirit are in check before I act?

- We want to be in a frame of mind to help the situation, not hurt it.

QUOTE: To deal with a situation in anger is to pour gasoline on the fire instead of water.

III. U – Understand (Proverbs 18:13)

Have I taken the time to get an understanding of the matter from every angle, every perspective? Do I fully understand the circumstances?

- Situations, once studied, may be far different than our first impression would lead us to believe.



A. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION 1: THE ALTAR OF THE RUEBENITES AND GADITES (JOSHUA 22)

1. The Dismissal (Joshua 22:1-5)

2. The Distance (Joshua 22:9 ff.)

3. The Dispute (Joshua 22:10-12)

- They find themselves on the verge of civil war.
- And the reason for all of this has to do with a great big misunderstanding of MOTIVES.

4. The Delegation (Joshua 22:13-16)

- Thank God we do know that there were some men there with cooler heads.

APPLY! – Thank God for Gentlemen!

- It never hurts to take the time to get a full understanding.

5. The Defense (Joshua 22:22 ff.)

- They then explain that they had never made the altar for sacrifices.

- It was to serve as a memorial, a sign that though they lived across the Jordan from their brethren, they were true worshippers of Jehovah God and had a right to come to the true altar! (Joshua 22:27-29)

6. The Defusing (Joshua 22:30-34)

- Hearing this, Phinehas and the Western tribal representatives are pleased.
- They report back to Shiloh and all is well.
- But oh how close they came to all out war!
- And all because of a misunderstanding.