



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

Calvary Baptist Church

August 14, 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; Jam. 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?

A. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION 1: THE ALTAR OF THE RUEBENITES AND GADITES (JOSHUA 22) See handout C for details.

B. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION 2: KING AHASUERUS (ESTHER 3:8-10,13)

The lesson here is that Ahasuerus allowed others, men whose motives were **self-serving**, to persuade him to do something which he had not **thought** through.

C. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION 3: DARIUS (DANIEL 6:4-9, 14)

- Darius appoints **120** princes over the land.
- Daniel incurs the **jealous** wrath of the others.
- They formulate a **plot** against Daniel.
- Once again, we see that this is subtle and **covert** rather than direct.

D. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION 4: THE PHARISEES (JOHN 7:45-52)

- The Pharisees are incensed that the Temple police have not **arrested** Jesus.
- **John 7:51** Doth our law judge any man, before it **hear** him, and **know** what he doeth?

ILLUS: LIFE'S DEEPER MEANING

APPLICATION (Pr. 18:13; Job 29:16)

STEPS TO GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF A MATTER

1. We must allow a period of **discovery** before we act. (Is. 40:31; Ps. 25:3,5,21; Lam. 3:25-26)
2. We must be careful not to judge according to **appearances**. (John 7:19-24)
3. We must not allow pre-conceived notions and **prejudices** to cloud our opinion. (James 2:1)
4. We must examine according to our **spiritual** nature, not our **flesh**. (John 8:15; 1 Cor. 2:14-15)
5. We must be willing to listen to **both sides** of the matter. (John 7:51; cf. Deut. 19:15-19)
 - Often, men with **selfish** motives will push us to make decisions quickly.
 - We need to make it our habit to say, “Let me **get back** to you on that.”
6. We must ask, “How would I want to be **treated** were I in the **same position**?” (James 2:8-9)
7. We must not run ahead **blindly** with our thoughts but rather seek **God’s** thoughts on the matter. (Isa. 55:8-9)
QUOTE: Often, if we will simply take the time to **wait** on the Lord, to look a little more closely, to put ourselves in the position of the other person, to pray a little more, to check our attitude, then what seemed to be an impassible **mountain** of conflict fades into a little **mole** hill. (lkw)