

December 31, 2017

Speaker: Tim McCardel

New Message Series: Getting Real (Lifechange) in 2018

Today's Message: Wise Questions to Start a New Year

Wise Goals: to _____ where you believe God wants you to go and to _____ what God wants you to be.

WISE QUESTIONS TO ASK:

#1. Ask: _____ **Am I now?**

Genesis 24:1 "Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things."

Present Position: Relationally? ... Spiritually? ... Financially? ... Emotionally?

* What would I like to change? ... it's never too late to make a change!

#2. Ask: _____ **Do I Want?**

Genesis 24:3, 4 "Swear to the Lord, the God of heaven... that you will... go to my country and my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

⇒ **Important:** We must be _____ - Abraham told Eliezer exactly the kind of wife he wanted for Isaac.

Truth: You won't know if you reach a goal if you're not clear about specific goals.

Ask: What do I want to be? ... What do I want to do? ... What do I want to have? ... Why do I want it?

Key: Before focusing on the "How" - figure out the "Why" - and let God direct you in the "How."

#3. Ask: What Has God Promised?

Genesis 24:7 "The Lord, the God of heaven... who spoke to me and swore to me, "To your offspring I will give this land, He will send His angel before you."

When Setting A Goal: Do not focus on the problems (our tendency!) but _____ on God's promises!

Matthew 28:20 "... I am with you always, to the end of the age."

#4. Pray: "God, Help me to get There."

Genesis 24:12 "And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham."

* It's okay to ask God for success this way; this honors God and shines out His Love!

Reality: Your prayers reveal how much you depend on God: the more you depend on God—the more you'll pray.

#5. Ask: What's Keeping Me From My Goal?

Genesis 24:5 "The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land."

- * What are the road blocks, barriers, obstacles?
- * Am I lazy? ... Fearful? ... Negative? ... Apathetic?

#6. Pray: "God, please give me success—for Your Kingdom Glory."

Genesis 24:42-45

- * Eliezer had a simple, but well thought out plan: he took 10 camels—loaded with the best stuff.

Warning: You will either drift thru life or be directed by God by letting God place you where He wants you to be.

#7. Pray for Persistence and Patience.

Genesis 24:21

- * "Direction—not intention—determines our destination." ~Andy Stanley

Key: Delayed Gratification

Isaiah 30:18-22

#8. Ask: What will it cost?

Genesis 24:53, 48

Truth: The greatest use of life is to invest it in something that will outlast it!