

Having Forethought So You Are Not Unprepared

I. Introduction:

A. When Jesus was teaching about the cost of discipleship (**Luke 14:25-33**), He used a principle about planning that we should think about (**Luke 14:28-32**).

1. Jesus didn't teach something new (**Proverbs 20:18**).
2. The fact is, decisions should be thought through considering what the results will be down the road (**Hosea 12:7-14**).

B. Think about God's concern about Israel's shortsightedness (**Deuteronomy 32:18-29**).

1. He put forth much effort to forewarn them (**Deuteronomy 8:11-19**).
2. He wished they would have listened (**Deuteronomy 5:29** and **Isaiah 48:17-18**).
3. Yet, they opted to "live in the moment", without weighing what would come of it all (**Isaiah 10:1-3**).
4. Can [WILL] we learn from this (**Romans 15:4**)?

II. Body: It is not good to act without some forethought (**Proverbs 21:5**).

A. With spiritual and physical needs, learn to think and plan without the need for constant guidance (**Proverbs 6:6-11**).

1. Certainly, I am making no attempt to downplay the value and importance of being amongst wise counselors (**Proverbs 11:14** and **Proverbs 15:22**).
2. Ants show us that they know they have to eat so, without a guide, they prepare a harvest thinking ahead (**Proverbs 27:23-27**).
3. The word of God teaches us that help is intended to get us up, not to carry us (**Galatians 6:1-9**; cf. **I Thessalonians 4:11-12**).
4. Don't think you're not strong enough (**Proverbs 30:25**) or make excuses not to do what you need to do (**Proverbs 26:13-16**).

B. What if you're unprepared for what you know is coming physically (**Proverbs 20:4**) or spiritually (**Matthew 25:1-13**)? cf. **Proverbs 22:3** and **Proverbs 27:12**

1. What will happen if you don't put forth the right efforts to take care of things for you and your family (**Proverbs 19:15** and **II Thessalonians 3:10**)?
2. Are you ready for the Lord to come today (**Matthew 24:42-51**)?

C. BALANCE - Planning for tomorrow without planning on tomorrow (**James 4:13-16**).

1. Consider a reference made in last week's lesson (**Luke 12:13-48**).
2. With balance, learn to properly prioritize (**Proverbs 24:27**).

III. Conclusion: When you think ahead, plan ahead, you must also act to prepare for what is ahead (**Hebrews 11:7**)!