

Pursuing God in a Post-Christian Culture **Acts 7:22-36**

You may have heard Pastor Karl suggest to you that our culture is becoming MORE Christian and LESS Christian at the same time. What is the luke-warm contingency in the middle? Gone are the days when it was socially advantageous to be a Church-going Christian. The differences between following Jesus and following the ways of our culture are becoming clearer.

So...how are we to live? How should we conduct our lives in a postmodern American culture which is steadily becoming post-Christian? We don't always have specific statements in the Bible that match the sticky situations that we face. So...what do we do?

When you don't have directives, it can help to look at the stories in the Bible. We have stories of people in the Bible who pursued God's will on His terms. We also have stories in the Bible of people who pursued God's will on their own terms. This means we have good examples and bad examples.

Moses is unique in that he is both a good example and a bad example at the same time.

Moses was a Jew who was raised as an Egyptian. He is among the best and brightest that Egypt has. It's a safe bet that Moses looked around the landscape and was able to see the uniqueness of his position – a Jew who had all the advantages of Egyptian royalty.

Moses had correctly discerned the will of God to free the people of Israel from the ungodly culture in which they lived. Moses had also incorrectly concluded how to do it.

Problem: When Moses killed the Egyptian, he was acting like his culture. Might makes right. You mess with my people...I'm going to take you out...because I can. Moses did to the Egyptian what the Egyptians had been doing to the Jews. It looks like it never occurred to him that there was another way.

Acting like the culture cost Moses 40 years in the desert.

A brief evaluation of his experience regarding the will of God leads to these options:

God's will, God's way. This is the pursuit of God's will on God's terms. Did Moses do that?

God's will, my way. This is the pursuit of God's will on my terms. Did Moses do that?

God's will, the hard way. This is the pursuit of God's will on God's terms AFTER he tried to do it his way. This seems to be what the 40 years are about – helping him to shift from God's will, my way to God's will, God's way.

Our culture has already began the pursuit of God's great gifts on their terms. ***God's will, our way.***

If you remove God from your worldview and you are not accountable to Him, it's not likely you would want to do something with great difficulty. How do we respond? Hopefully, you will get to a point in your life that you are absolutely convinced that God's will, God's way is the best way to live.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 7:22-36 in your group. What are some general observations you can make from this passage? What are some general reflections you have after this sermon?
2. Moses endured a radical change in lifestyle. It's not like Moses volunteered for the desert but it was God's choice to use the desert to build a new man. Have you ever had a desert type of experience? What was that like? What did you learn about yourself?
3. Pastor Karl described the pursuit of God's will occurring in three possible ways:

God's will, God's way. This is the pursuit of God's will on God's terms. Did Moses do that?

God's will, my way. This is the pursuit of God's will on my terms. Did Moses do that?

God's will, the hard way. This is the pursuit of God's will on God's terms AFTER you have tried to do it your way and need a new approach. Did Moses do that?

Which of these do you think Moses experienced? Keep in mind – we only looked at his experiences that occurred early in his Biblical record.

Can you think of a time when you experienced some aspect of pursuing the will of God in the manner that Pastor Karl described?

4. Does it make sense to you that people who don't know God's Word and are not familiar with the gospel will struggle with your desires to make decisions in accordance with God's will? Does knowing this change the way you view people in our culture?
5. Given what you learned about Moses and his experience, what changes, if any, do you think a person might need to make as someone who follows Jesus in a post-Christian culture?