

# Act in Haste; Repent in Leisure

Acts 19:23-41

# Act in Haste; Repent in Leisure

- “Act in haste; repent in leisure.” Propere age, otiose paenitere (William Congreve, Treatise on Marriage, 1693)

# Acts 19:23-41 - The Making of a Riot

- They feared that the Gospel would adversely impact their way of life; they incited the public with fear of lost income and well-being - Acts 19:24-27
- This fear rapidly spread throughout the city, even among people did not understand what was happening - Acts 19:29, 32
- The people shouted an empty slogan for two hours - Acts 19:34
- A city administrator was able to calm the people down by getting them to think - Acts 19:35-37

# Act in Haste; Repent in Leisure

- Acting in haste without thinking creates situations that harm and haunt us for years, possibly a lifetime
- Prov. 29:20 - “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

# Act in Haste; Repent in Leisure

- “I think the two things most opposed to good counsel are haste and passion; haste usually goes hand in hand with folly, passion with coarseness and narrowness of mind.” (Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War)
- “Haste denies all acts their dignity.” (Dante Alighieri, Purgatorio)
- “Truth is confirmed by inspection and delay; falsehood by haste and uncertainty.” (Tacitus)
- “Unreasonable haste is the direct road to error.” (Moliere)

# Pressure To Act In Haste

- Many people and circumstances exert pressure on us to make quick decisions
  - Sales personnel
  - Scam artists
  - Business leaders and supervisors
  - Politicians
  - Errorists and false teachers

# Pressure To Act In Haste

- People who make quick decisions frequently make wrong decisions.
  - They don't take the time to gather the facts.
  - They don't research the best course.
  - They don't consider other alternatives.
- A poorly considered request or warning nearly always favors the asker and often harms the one asked

# Overcoming Acting In Haste

- Gather the facts
  - Prov. 13:16 - “Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.”
- Seek first to be informed
  - Prov. 19:2 - “Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with his feet.”
  - Prov. 18:15 - “The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”



# Overcoming Acting In Haste

- Use caution
  - Prov. 14:15-16 - “The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.”
- The naive overlooks potential danger
  - Prov. 22:3 - “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.”
- Don't reveal everything you know
  - Prov. 12:23 - “A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.”

# Overcoming Acting In Haste

- Let the one applying the pressure provide the facts and then challenge the facts for confirmation
  - 1John 4:1 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

# Overcoming Acting In Haste

- Plan carefully in advance
  - Prov. 21:5 - “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”
  - Psalm 4:4 - “Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.”

# Overcoming Acting In Haste

- Think about what would please God, what would reflect His wisdom and righteousness
  - Prov. 6:6-11 - “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep- 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.”

# Overcoming Acting In Haste

- Forethought will reveal that things need to be done in a specific order.
  - Prov. 24:27 - “Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.”

# Avoiding Haste In Our Faith

- We must not be hasty in our approach to God
  - Ecc. 5:1-2 - “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. 2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.”

# Avoiding Haste In Our Faith

- Every prospect must consider the cost of being a Christian
  - Luke 14:26-33 - “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it -- 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

# Avoiding Haste In Our Faith

- Christianity is not a religion of convenience, but of commitment
- It is an important decision that must not be put off, but it cannot be made in haste.



# Avoiding Haste In Our Faith

- Sometimes in our haste to overcome a temporary, physical problem, we sacrifice eternal, spiritual blessings
  - Out of a necessity for a better job
  - In a panic to preserve peace at home
  - In fear of declining numbers at church

# Avoiding Haste In Our Faith

- Is quickly resolving a temporary problem going to cause us to regret that decision in eternity?
- Imagine spending eternity regretting hasty words or actions; imagine spending every moment in hell remembering a hasty decision to solve a minor temporary problem with an eternal compromise of your faith