

Wrestling With Change

February 6, 2022

Statement: During this season there have been many days when I have wrestled with decisions.

I. Five Decisions I Have Wrestled With

- A. I wrestled with the decision to move to all-**digital services** for a season
- B. I wrestled with the decision to have the **staff mainly work** from home
- C. I wrestled with the decision to have **drive-in services** last year
- D. I wrestled with the decision to have the **singers sing on stage without mask**
- E. I wrestled with requiring the **band and singers to be vaccinated**
- F. I wrestled to **stay the course** and follow the science (Faith and Science can be friends)

Example: Genesis 1:27, NIV (This is a call to manage and subdue the science)

- God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

II. My Rules for Wrestling (Luke 14:28-33)

1. Sit down and estimate the cost

- Luke 14:28–33 (NIV): 28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first **sit down and estimate the cost to see** if you have enough money to complete it?”

2. Make sure you can complete what you start

- 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, “This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.”

4. Investigate Your Enemy

- 31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?”

5. Develop a Winning Strategy

- 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

III. Personal Questions I Had to Wrestle With

1. How willing am I to be different?
2. How willing am I to be alone?
3. How willing am I to wait?
4. How willing am I to sacrifice?
5. **Am I being cautious, wise, or fearful?**

Note: A friend told me that I am in a season of liminality (A state of transition)

- Liminality is a **state of transition between one stage and the next**, especially between major stages in one's life or during a rite of passage. ... In a general sense, liminality is an in-between period, typically marked by uncertainty.

Closing:

IV. Where Are We Going

1. Forward
2. To greater prosperity
3. To more unique in-person gatherings
4. To a broader use of our calendar and not just 1-4th Sunday
5. To a more aggressive youth outreach
6. To a more aggressive community outreach plan (**We will support more key organizations**)
7. Tomorrow, we are clearing more land and preparing for more gathering opportunities

Next Time:

February 13, 2022

Embracing the Truth About How We Got Here (Embracing a Mature Attitude)

Series Summary

1. They Needed to Embrace a New Reality
2. **They Needed to Embrace a Mature Attitude**
3. They Needed to Embrace the Truth About Some Religious Leaders
4. They Needed to Embrace a New Timeline

Jeremiah 29:7

- 7 Also, **seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.** Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”