

DON'T MESS UP

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Psalm 9:7-8 “God sees and sets the world’s mess right. He decides what is right for us.”

Three Steps to Take When You’re Facing a Mess

1. Don’t make the mess MESSIER!

Proverbs 19:2-3 “Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes. People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.”

First options often make the mess messier.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God.”

Proverbs 14:17 “A quick-tempered person does foolish things, and the one who devises evil schemes is hated.”

Reacting in anger may make you FEEL better, but it won’t make things better.

James 1:19-20 “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”

2. Discern God's MESSAGE in your mess.

Proverbs 2:6 “For the Lord grants wisdom! From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Proverbs 28:5 “Evildoers do not understand what is right, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.”

Ignore VIRTUE and you will always make a mess.

Haggai 1:5-11 “Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.’ This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.’”

Haggai 1:12-13 “Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God’s people began to obey the message from the Lord their God. When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the Lord their God had sent, the people feared the Lord. Then Haggai, the Lord’s messenger, gave the people this message from the Lord: ‘I am with you, says the Lord!’”

3. Depend on God to help you MAKE IT through your mess.

Psalm 71:1-3 “I run for dear life to God, I’ll never live to regret it. Do what you do so well: get me out of this mess and up on my feet. Put your ear to the ground and listen, give me space for salvation. Be a guest room where I can retreat; you said your door was always open! You’re my salvation - my vast, granite fortress.”

When you choose to follow Jesus, God takes responsibility for the outcome of the journey.

Psalm 79:8-9 “Hurry up and help us; we’re at the end of our rope. You’re famous for helping; God, give us a break. Your reputation is on the line. Pull us out of this mess, forgive us our sins - do what you’re famous for doing!”

Psalm 30:11-12 “You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!”

Memory Verse: Psalm 9:7-8 “God sees and sets the world’s mess right. He decides what is right for us.”