

Our feelings are very undependable guides as to what we should do. God may choose to give us an unusual leading in an unusual way. We should test it and be very careful sure that he has. Feelings, signs, and dreams can mislead us. Just as apt to mislead us as to lead us right.

God has given us His Word. We must study it, learn its principles that we may find what is in it. Some people feel that the way to determine God's leading is to see what door is open. God opens one door and closes another. That is the way to know His will. I have no doubt there are times when the circumstances are very important as God's way of leading us. I don't believe it should be a primary way. I don't think we should make primary decisions on the basis of this, because Satan can open doors as well as God can. I should not say as well as God can, but I mean that Satan can and does open doors.

Jonah decided to flee from the presence of the Lord. We read he went down to Joppa and found a convenient ship going in exactly the opposite direction from what God had commanded him to go. The circumstances were very propitious for him but led him in the wrong direction. In Mat. 14 Jesus told the disciples to row across the sea of Galilee. Then we read the winds were contrary and they struggled and struggled to go.

Circumstances may work out to help us if that is what God chooses to do. Circumstances may be such as to cause us to develop our trust in God and go ahead in spite of obstacles, to push forward in the direction He wants us to go.

I was greatly impressed with the life of Martin Luther. One of the greatest Christians, I believe, who ever lived. One story about Luther that impressed me greatly is the account of his trip to Wormes where he was to appear before the Emperor. Luther was already condemned before he went. As he went notices were being posted everywhere saying that anyone who had any of his books should burn them. Luther was given safe conduct to get to Wormes and to get back to Wittenberg there to appear before the Emperor at Wormes. So the man came from the Emperor with a wagon which was the only transportation available at that time and took Luther in the wagon to go clear across Germany to Wormes.

It was a long trip. When they would come through a town, Luther would ask him to let him stop and preach. He did that in many towns. The people saw these signs that Luther's works should be burned because he was a heretic. Here he came speaking in the church so many came to hear him who would not otherwise have come. Luther gave them the gospel. One time so many people came that they overcrowded the balcony of the church and the whole side wall of the church collapsed. People began to run out of the church. They said, My this is a wicked man, the very church walls fall down when he starts to speak. And Luther called out in that great voice of his and said, Come back here! Come back here! The devil is trying to keep you from hearing the gospel! It seemed to me he had exactly the right attitude toward the circumstance there.