

Cliché Talk

TRIPP AND TYLER VIDEO

Over the past year, I've had to address some issues, problems, behaviors, and beliefs I had about myself, the world, and others. I attended counseling for 25 weeks and during that time I heard many, many "simple solutions" in the form of Pinterest-esque quotes and sayings

These include: "Just trust God!" "Let go and let God", "God will bring it to you" (whatever 'it' may be), and even What Would Jesus Do?

at best they're overused, unexplained Biblical truths

at worst they're distracting and potentially damaging clichés used to put a Band-Aid on a bullet wound

- typically said when the speaker is uncomfortable with how to handle your pain/situation
- or they are doing it in genuine compassion and think that is all that is needed, yet fail to explain it

- most of these involve the word "just"

- from a counseling standpoint, the word "just" is a curse word

- it implies a singular, typically easy solution

- if all people needed were "just" solutions, they wouldn't be needed people to talk to and seeking advice and clarification from others

and they are told to people when the person is lost, hurt, confused, angry, sad, distressed, or lonely

- people

Again, most of these have good intent and a basic Biblical foundation to them. I'm not saying they're not true or even helpful at times. What I am saying is these sayings and systems are carelessly thrown in isolation.

I'm less concerned about giving you answers or counter-phrases in place of these, but rather

I. Just trust God

- riding a horse

What does trusting God actually mean? Telling somebody to just "trust God" seems like telling somebody "Go ride a horse" without explaining the details. How do I do that? How do I know if I'm doing it right? What if I'm doing it wrong, how do I change it? Will I know, will the horse tell me, will somebody else tell me? What if I fall off the horse, can I get back on or will the horse run away? Should I go fast or slow? What if I get lost? Can I go back, or do I have to go forwards? Is it just me and the horse, or will there be other people on horses next to me? Will they help me or is it just me and the horse?

- What does trusting God look like?

Of course we need to trust God, but what does this really mean for each person individually?

- When I'm told this, or hear someone say this and then the person stops, as if this that simple phrase is supposed to be enough to solve the hurt person's struggles
- each person has a different struggle and a different situation that requires trusting
- Throwing a blanket statement over people minimizes and reduces what the person is going through to a broad saying that misses the individual circumstances

What are some situations that require trusting God?

- New job
- college
- relationship
- confusion for career
- could also be more personal, dealing with stress, anxiety, fear, lust, anger, any sin
- For me, it was trusting God with my self-image and where I placed my self-worth as a person
- this is a very sticky, messy, and confusing topic
- not many clearly defined lines
- and really, according to Scripture, the only self-image we have is negative, nothing about is, aside from God's common grace and Jesus' presence in us, inherently valuable.
- “Just trusting God” with my self worth, after years of placing it in other things, was impossible

II. Lay it at the cross

- related to the above of just trusting God, but this phrase seems to take on an added emotional factor
- Seems to imply that your current faith is not strong enough
- Laying something brings the image of taking it off your shoulders and getting rid of the weight of what you're carrying
- However, are we ever told that we are going to be burdenless?
- I realize this may not be the intent people have when saying it, but the idea of taking weight off yourself and giving it to God is true yet misleading.
- Matthew 11:28-30 says that we will find rest with Christ, but not an empty back and shoulders
- our burden and yoke will be easier and lighter, yet it will not be absent from our lives
- Now this saying can be true in terms of unhealthy guilt, forgiving and overcoming bitterness
- in those terms, yes we must give them to God
- but the question still remains: “What does it look like?” “How do I lay everything at the cross?”
- Though this is still true, saying it to someone does not get them closer to actually doing it, it only informs them of an ideal that should be accomplished

III. God's will

What is God's will?

- Is it a strange, mysterious, ever changing, hard to see, singular plan God has for us and every decision we make?

If so:

- pressure to always do right
- implies you can act outside of God's control
- limits the power of God to only what he wants
- more power to person to control how God can use choices

Does this sound like the God we know? Does this sound like love? Why would God inform us of His desire for us to be with Him in His will, yet make it so hard to find?

- Is God cruel? Are we spiritually blind?

"Are you in the center of God's will?" "Is this God's will for you?" "Make sure this is what God has for you"

"Just Do Something" pg. 46

What if God's will wasn't so confusing, subjective day to day, and difficult to discern?

Permissive, Declarative, and Desirable

- permissive: what God allows to happen
- declarative or what God commands to happen
- desireable, or what God desires to happen (us obey Him)

Matthew 6:25-34: Do not be anxious about tomorrow, rather seek first the kingdom of God

"Just Do Something" by Kevin DeYoung

- Worry less about what you're doing, and more about why you're doing something

- Is what you're doing furthering the kingdom of God?

- If you think there is only one plan God has for you and if you don't follow that exactly you're sinning, than you don't understand God

- Can God only use you if you go into engineering? Or business? Or music? Or art? Or pastoral ministries?

- Is God's will restrained by what major you pick?

- Can God only use you if you get a degree in mathematics as opposed to law?

- If you don't go to nursing school, would have missed your chance to follow God's will in becoming a teacher?

-There are opportunities to further God's kingdom and be a servant in all areas of life, and thinking only one specific degree will accomplish this is foolish and does not account for the ability of God to use you where you are

-Listen to God and do His will

-implies only one way God can use you?

<http://www.larknews.com/archives/517>

“TRUCKEE — After spending several months seeking the Lord, Brian Davis says God gave him the answer he sought: latte.

Davis' question: Did God prefer him to have a latte or cappuccino in the morning?

“I believe God is interested in the minutiae of my life,” he says. “He knows every hair on my head; surely he has ideas about my actions throughout the day.”

Davis says the coffee question bothered him for several years, and he felt guilty about being in “God's permissive will, but not his perfect will.” Finally he decided to make it a matter of prayer.

“I have access to the God of the universe,” he says. “Why not ask his opinion?”

He received his answer during early-morning prayer in the guest bedroom of his home. He rushed out to Starbucks and ordered a guilt-free grande latte.

“It was one of the great moments of my life,” he says. “I knew without a doubt that I was in the very center of God's will.”

But the relief didn't last long. Davis soon began to wonder if God minds if he adds sugar to his latte, and how many packets God prefers him to use, and whether David should use white sugar, unrefined sugar, Equal or even Sweet'N Low. Davis has made it a matter of “serious prayer” and is confident he'll receive an answer, since lately God has also helped him choose which kind of toothpaste to use, which side of the bed to sleep on, and whether to watch Hannity & Colmes at 6 p.m. or 9 p.m. “

-Examples of times you are told to “listen to God's will”:

- Picking a college
- Picking a major
- Picking a job
- Relationships
 - dating
 - marriage

What is your motivation for doing something? Are you making this choice because you think it'll be good for you and make you happy?

-Or are you dedicated to loving God and bring glory to Him in all you do, regardless of what choice you make?

Kevin DeYoung, page 61: "Simply put, God's will is your growth in Christlikeness"

IV. Let go and let God

This is the other extreme to God's will. Rather than analyzing and scrutinizing everything we do through the filter of "Is this God's will?", some advise become lazy and sit back waiting for God under the mask of "Letting God take control" or "Give it to God, He'll open a door".

Both lead to inaction, neither is better than the other

-either you don't make choices because second guessing leads to anxiety

-or you don't make choices because God will work in a way that doesn't require decision making

What is our part in God's will?

-we are not to just sit back and be inactive in all we do

-In Acts, a lot of Paul's movements from place to place where by his choosing

-When a special revelation was given to Paul or an apostle, it was rare and not the norm they lived by

-When we are seeking or hoping for something to come about, how often do we sit back and expect God to make it happen if He really wants us to have it?

-God doesn't reward laziness

Example: I really like that girl/guy, and I think I would like to ask him/her out. However, I'm not 110% sure that this is the person God has for me. So until I'm sure I'm going to marry this person, I'll wait and not do anything.

-refusing to get to know someone better on the basis of not being sure if you're going to marry them is ridiculous

Or

"I really think this college is going to be good for me. I can afford it, it several majors I'm interested, the campus is pretty, and the professors I've met seem nice. However, I don't know what major I want to enter in yet. Until I clearly know what I'm doing with my life and what I want a degree in, I should wait until I'm certain"

-What if you stopped worrying and chose a major you enjoyed?

-Could God take your thoughtful choice and use it to bring glory to Him?

God wants you to talk to Him and certainly has an opinion about your life

-yet if you could love God and spread the gospel through athletics, psychology, writing, management, teaching, or law enforcement, is God requiring you to pick the "right" one out of that group?

A theology of hesitancy and second-guessing until being absolutely sure of a choice leads to anxiety, fear, and a greater dependence on external factors rather than God and His power

-pg 76-77 "Just Do Something"

Take risks!

-If you're afraid a risk you're taking isn't exactly what God wants, then you're limiting the power of God

I realize I may be trivializing the will of God and following what He has to say. By all means prayer and meditation on the Word of God is needed and essential to making good choices.

-But remaining lazy or still until complete confidence and assurance is available is no better

V. Angry at God/Frustrated at God

-is it OK?

-we're usually told it's not

-appropriate, or sinful? both?

-God can handle the anger

-if you've never been angry at God, that's surprising and almost uncommon

biblical anger/unbiblical

can you be sinful in your anger towards God?

-anger at God is mostly likely sinful, but it is also natural

-we really don't have reason to be angry at God because we don't know His ways

-is there healthy anger?

-what do you do with that anger?

-become bitter at God?

-what if you expressed that anger to God?

Jeremiah in lamentations 3

-that is real anger

-where does the anger take him?

-why is this in the Bible?

-What is God trying to tell people by putting this in the Bible?

Ultimately, it's less about if you're angry at God, and more about where does the anger take you?

To bitterness, or remembrance of His faithfulness and love and grace

I understand I may have been pushing too hard one way, but I'm hoping to restore at least some balance to what people typically believe and what I think is more Biblical

Some of these are based on truth, some are not
Don't abandon the truth underlined behind the statements
-only be careful when you say them, why you're saying it and if you're to explain and apply the
saying to the specific circumstances of the person

Lost people need a path, hurt people need a remedy, and overwhelmed people need relief
How can you help them more than putting a cliché bandaid over a tremendous wound?