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Asking the Lord to Order our Steps: The Importance of Choosing the Right Theological



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I remember providing pastoral care and counseling to a couple several years ago. The couple contacted me in order to discuss a problem that the two of them were experiencing in their married life which concerned the issue of money. The husband was responsible for managing the couples finances and, unfortunately, he failed to construct a budget which included their retirement and savings. When his wife determined that they did not have any money in savings or for their retirement, she was furious and requested pastoral counseling. During the counseling sessions, the husband stated on several occasions that he had apologized for his financial mistake. He also stated that he wife of ten years had difficulty forgiving him. As a Christian, she understood the importance and necessity of forgiveness; however, she insisted that he should continue to "tell the truth" regarding his inability to manage their finances effectively. She

also informed me that the Lord had instructed her to forgive; however, she was preoccupied with getting her husband to tell the truth about his management skills. The couple managed to stay married, and he admitted that he faced some challenges which regarding to managing money. However, the three of us determined that her willingness to embrace the theological virtue or value of truth instead of listening to the Lord and embracing the theological virtue or value of forgiveness continued to hinder their marriage. In short, God loves and embraces "the truth." Ephesians 6 says that we should wear the belt of truth about our waist, and Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life..." but the marriage continued to suffer because she was convicted by the Holy Spirit that she should have pursued forgiveness and love instead of "the truth."

Jesus embodies and articulates many theological virtues or

godly values in the New Testament. For example, Jesus says that we should love, forgive, demonstrate compassion and have mercy. When we are working with people who do not think highly of us, God may be telling us to demonstrate love toward them but we may rely on faith and find a job away from them. God, through the Holy Spirit, sometimes says that we soul seek the theological virtue of peace, we instead choose the virtue of justice. My point is that our blessings are often found in our willingness to embrace the theological value that God has placed upon our heart. If God tells us to have faith in God, then we should have faith and not attempt to pursue peace or justice because it is easier or convenient for us to do so. In short, we must embrace a line in the great Church hymn: "Order my steps in your way Dear Lord."