

Connecting the Dots

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Scripture: Matthew 7:24–26

Idea: Life is connected. Applied wisdom ensures we live with that in mind.

[Today, we begin a new series entitled...]

Graphic: Title slide for *You'll Be Glad You Did: Timeless Advice for Troubled Times*

[We've lived long enough to reap the benefits of some good decisions and habits as well as the consequences of some bad decisions and habits. Looking back, we're either...]

“Glad we **did**”

[Or...]

“Wish we **had**”

[Or we're...]

“Glad we **didn't**”

“Wish we **hadn't**”

[Eventually, we realize today's decisions become tomorrow's realities. This is the lesson every parent hopes to impart to their children.]

“These grades **count!**”

“Your academic decisions **now** determine your academic options **later.**”

[Your academic options later determine the people you meet. The people you meet determine who you bring home, and who you bring home will determine who you marry. Who you marry determines your in-laws. If I don't like your in-laws, then I won't be happy. So...]

“**Your** grades ultimately determine **my** happiness!”

[So study hard! This underscores another facet regarding the connectedness of life. Not only will...]

You'll be glad you did.