

# MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE

## SCRIPTURE:

*The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage,  
But everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty. (Proverbs 21:5)*

## MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) tape measure
- (1) pencil
- (1) piece of wood
- (1) saw

## MAIN MESSAGE:

We all have times when we wish we could take words or actions back because they were wrong or because they hurt somebody. Planning out what we are going to do or say and why we are going to do or say should be a priority in everything we do. Instead of wasting our words and actions, we should take advantage of the brain that God gave us and use it for good.

## SONG: "Seek Ye First"

## LESSON:

Every now and then I feel like I want to be a carpenter. I put on the tool belt, grab a pencil, a measuring tape, a saw, and some wood. I have a hard time with being patient, so typically I measure something one time then mark it and cut it. Luckily for me about 50% of the time it works out well, but the other 50% is usually wasted wood and time.

This is where the old adage "measure twice, cut once" comes in to play. Instead of measuring once and hastily doing the job, I need to slow down and think about and plan out what I am doing. What am I trying to accomplish? Is the pencil mark where it really needs to be? This is the best way to ensure that I will be accurate in accomplishing my goal of what I am cutting and building.

Isn't this true for Christians as well? Don't we say things or do things before truly thinking it over a couple times and planning out our purpose or intent? If I am planning to say something to somebody, is my purpose out of love or is it for selfish reasons? If I am planning to do something, is it going to bring glory to God, or is it going to dishonor him? Our actions and our words can be so precious, and we need to not waste them just because we get anxious or because we aren't thinking. Everything we do or say should be out of love for others and to bring God glory and honor. Measure your thoughts twice, so when you make that cut, you are making it count!

**PRAYER:** Let us not be hasty in our speech and in our actions. Instead, let us do things for the greater good of others and for the greater good of God's kingdom.