

The Mystery of God's Ways

- *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isa. 55:8-9*
- *The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deut. 29:29*
- We dare not guess or put our ideas into God's ways. He is infinitely above us. Both in the operation of the creation and in His commands.

His Ways & His Commandments

- *So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then **I will lengthen your days.** 1Kings 3:14*
- God's Ways can intervene in the lives of men and change outcomes.

Walk in God's Ways

- *Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 1Kgs 11:38*
- Heed all that I command = Walk in My ways = Do what is right in my sight = Keep My statutes and commandments
- Jeroboam was promised God will intervene in his life, just as He did with David.

Jeroboam Did Not Walk in His Ways

- *you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes; 9 but **you have done more evil than all who were before you**, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and **have cast Me behind your back** — 10 therefore behold! **I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, 1 Kings 14:8-10***

Physically Illustrated in the OT

- In God's ways, those who serve Him are rewarded and those who reject him are cursed
- *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: Deut 28:1-2*

Materially Illustrated in the OT

- In God's ways, those who serve Him are rewarded and those who reject him are cursed
- *"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Deut 28:15*

Spiritually Illustrated in the Prophets

- *Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." 7 But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. Jer 1:4-8*
- God knew his heart ... promised to help him.

Spiritually Illustrated in the NT

- *For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; **you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.**'*

Acts 27:23-25

- God was blessing Paul with another opportunity to serve Him.
- Those seeking to do God's will can be comforted to know that God will be blessing them.

A Matter of Perspective

- Christians do not expect God's providence for material things. They hope for it in spiritual things.
- *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matt 6:33-34*
- When our priorities are focused on God and His Kingdom, His providence will open up doors of opportunity to work with Him and for Him.

God's Ways in His Kingdom

- Our preparation, efforts and desire will be blessed by God with opportunities.
- *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*
2Tim. 2:20-21

Parable of the Talents

- *For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and **delivered his goods to them.** 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, **to each according to his own ability**; and immediately he went on a journey. Mt. 25:14-15*
- Exactly as 2Tim 2.
- Jesus is now “*in another country*” = heaven.
- “*His goods*” are the work Jesus needs done.
- They are given “*according to our ability*”

Cleansing from the Latter

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:1-2

• We present our bodies a living sacrifice

• The more we transform and the less we conform, the more ability we possess, the more meet for the master's use we become and the more doors God will open for us.

According to Their Ability

- think soberly, **as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.** 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:
- This is the decision we have to make!
- a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Our Preparation Is Critical

- *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1Peter 4:10-11*
- Preparing and transforming leads to ministering.

Nothing Changes

- Esther – How do you know you have not come into the kingdom for such a time as this
- Noah found favor; came into the kingdom to build the ark.
- Abraham came into the kingdom to be a father of many nations.
- Joseph, Came to bring Israel to Egypt
- Moses Came to deliver the Israel from Egypt.
- Job – I have no one like him in all the earth
- David – The man after God's own heart
- Isaiah – Here I am send me

We Sing about it, Do we Believe it?

- Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go
- Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid
- God will take care of you
- If Jesus goes with me I'll go anywhere
- He leadeth me O blessed thought
- Jesus Savior pilot me
- Shelter in the time of storm
- Be with me Lord I cannot live without Thee
- I know Whom I have believed
- Guide me O Thou great Jehovah
- I need Thee every hour
- How firm a foundation