**My Thoughts are Higher than Yours**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

**Sunday Morning**

**April 24, 2022**

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8 "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.

**In every situation, especially challenging ones, we have two options. We can either respond our way or God’s way**

Saints, even though we know that doing what the Lord desires is the best choice, we’re naturally drawn to our own way. Yet God knows everything about us.

God knows our situations and He has the power to work everything out for our good. Therefore, the only way to experience His best is to follow Him, not our own agenda

Saints, many scriptural principles are illustrated in the lives of people in the Bible, and Moses offers us an example of both options—doing things God’s way and our way.

**Historical Biblical Account of Moses**

While Jacob and his 12 sons were living in Canaan, Joseph’s brothers became jealous of him and sold him into slavery in Egypt.

After many years living as a slave and a prisoner, Joseph rose to the position of prime minister. When a famine hit the entire area, Joseph saved his family and brought them to Egypt. There they increased to a great multitude, and eventually a new king arose who knew nothing about Joseph.

He feared the Israelites might turn on Egypt in a time of war so he forced them into slavery and afflicted them with hard labor. But despite his attempts to subdue them, the people kept multiplying. Moses was born when the king was seeking to kill all the male babies, but his mother kept him alive for three months until she couldn’t hide him anymore.

Then she put Moses in a basket, placed it in the Nile River, and stationed her daughter to watch over him. Moses was found by the princess of Egypt who kept him as her own son. She appointed Moses’ mother to nurse him until he was weaned.

Then he was raised in the palace as heir to the throne. When Moses had grown up, he became concerned about the harsh treatment of his people, the Hebrews, and wanted to do something about it. But he did it his way, and made several life-changing mistakes. When he saw an Egyptian man beating one of the Hebrews, he rescued the man by killing the Egyptian and hiding his body in the sand.

**Exodus 2:1-25**

1 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. 2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. 5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.

9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?" 19 And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

20 So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." 21 Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. 22 And she bore him a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

23 Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

**Moses’ Mistakes**

**He focused on an Event rather than the Big Picture**

Instead of considering how to save the entire nation, he focused on one act of cruelty.

**He Followed his Reasoning**

Moses thought the only way to help the Hebrew was to kill the Egyptian.

**He Acted on Impulse**

Moses didn’t pause to think, but responded spontaneously.

**He Acted in his Own Strength**

He took matters into his own hands instead of relying on the Lord.

**He Acted in Anger**

His unchecked rage led him to murder.

**He Failed to consider the Future Consequences**

Moses didn’t think about what would happen as a result of his actions.

Saints, when we do things our way, we’ll make these same mistakes. But if we’re in the habit of obeying the Lord, we’ll recognize that His thoughts and ways are higher than ours, and respond as He desires.

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

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Walking in God’s ways can become the habit of our lives!

**The Results of Moses’ Choice**

**1. He Murdered a Man**

**2. He was Full of Fear**

**3. He was Banished from Egypt**

**4. He became Isolated from his Family and the Hebrew Nation**

**5. He became a Shepherd**

**6. He had to think about what He’d Done**

**7. He lost his High Position, Power, and Influence**

**8. He lived in a Desert, while his People were Suffering in Egypt, and he couldn’t do anything about it**

Saints, when we choose our way over God’s, we too will experience difficult consequences. We’re usually filled with regret and disappointment and face costly consequences for our actions. They hurt not only us but others as well.

Even though God’s way isn’t always the simplest, may run against the grain of our desires, and could be painful, it’s always the best option because it fulfills God’s plans and purposes for our lives.

**The Prerequisite for Doing Things God’s Way**

Saints, no one can follow the Lord’s way apart from a right relationship with Him through His Son. We must acknowledge and repent of our sins and believe that Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross so we could be forgiven and enter into a relationship with God as His beloved children.

Saints, the Result of Doing Things God’s Way After 40 years in the wilderness, the Lord spoke to Moses through a burning bush.

**Exodus 3:1-6**

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

By now, Moses had lost all confidence in himself and could now be used by God to rescue the Israelites His way. When Moses turned aside to see why the bush was not consumed by the fire, the Lord instructed him to go back to Egypt and demand that Pharaoh let His people go.

**1. Moses Acted on Divine Command**

**Exodus 4:19-20**

19 And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men are dead who sought your life." 20 Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

He obediently followed God’s instructions instead of his own agenda.

**2. He Proceeded on God’s timing, not his Own**

**3. God Provided everything Moses Needed**

Aaron became his spokesman when Moses felt inadequate, and He gave him great signs to perform to convince Pharaoh.

**4. The Lord Banished his Fears**

He assured Moses that His presence and power would go with him.

**5. God gave Moses Specific Directions**

Moses experienced God’s power in his life. Egypt was a mighty nation, but Moses came in the power of almighty God.

**6. Moses saw God’s Power Working in Unusual Ways**

Moses witnessed the miracles God performed to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

**7. The Hebrews Experienced Great Blessings**

They carried away riches from the Egyptians.

**8. Moses Learned God’s Ways**

He witnessed the effectiveness of God’s way and the futility of his own.

**9. Moses Learned God could use him in his Weakness**

He stood before Pharaoh, armed only with a staff, and watched the Lord act on Israel’s behalf.

**2 Corinthians 13:7-9**

7 Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. 9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.

**10. God Accomplished in a short time what Moses couldn’t do in a Lifetime his Way**

Moses rescued one man, but the Lord set a multitude free without a revolution or war. Saints, when we follow Moses’ example and choose God’s way, we too will learn that He is faithful to accomplish His will through our weakness when we obey Him.

**1. Can you Remember a time you chose to do things your way rather than God’s?**

**2. What consequences and regrets followed your actions?**

**3. What keeps you from doing things God’s way?**

**4. Do you tend to respond to situations based on emotions, human reasoning, or impulses?**

**5. Are you prepared to respond according to God’s will as revealed in His Word?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**