

Discovering God's Will - Part 2 Isaiah 55:6-9

Last week we started talking about what it means to discover the will of God!

A) Noted that when talking about God's will 3 ways -

B) Providential will / Moral Will and the Personal will of God

C) Providential will essentially means that God is going to do WHAT He wants WHEN he wants and HOW He wants – regardless of what man does – **SOVEREIGN**

Right time Jesus came –

Right time He will come again /

God is going to Judge –
tomorrow the sun will come up

C) Then there is the Moral will: The things that God lays out for us to do and not do in His word.

1) Abstain from Sexually immorality / Not unequally Yoked / Obey Govt

D) Now when talking about the Personal will – Divide it into two groups – started talking about one last week –

1) I'll call the PRESENT will –

E) This has to do with certain things that you are aware of that God presently has you doing

1) Me – Married – I know what I am supposed to do
Father –
Pastor

Now here is what we established last time:

A) When we are doing what we are supposed to be doing as it relates to the Providential / the Moral and the Personal will of God –

B) It puts us in the **right neighborhood** to hear God's voice and discover his will in that other area of the personal will of God we are often the most interested in – His Directional will / His practical will

I wanted to open this morning with that skit because I think it perfectly illustrates how we can misuse God's word in seeking His will.

A) There are those in the body of Christ – who will over spiritualize God's word and take things out of context – ignore the overall Premise of the word

B) Extreme example: David Koresh – Jim Jones

C) But a lot of believers and Churches can be guilty of doing that in very subtle ways.

But God's word is one of the Primary means that we have for discovering His will. How God speaks to us

A) Next week talk how God uses People / How God uses circumstances – But #1 - THE BIBLE

Psalm 119:24

"Your testimonies also are my delight & my counselors."

B) But How does God leads us thru His word!

Some Try to find Parallel Situations –what did the Bible pp do

A) **Giant in my life** {Overbearing Boss – David faced a Giant – what did he do – Sling /Rock – sword –

B) Great get a sling – rock sword cut bosses head off. - **Get you arrested**

C) **Obstacle in my life:** Joshua – Jericho – March Around city – SHOUT – TRUMPET –

1) Your obstacle: Principal of your Child's School March around the Building - Looney news

Those are great stories – we need to see the Principle in the story;

A) David was able to move in confidence against Goliath

B) Because Philistines occupied land that God clearly given to Israel – **AND Goliath was mocking God**

B) Principle in Joshua{ We must be willing to submit to God and be yielded to His ways.

C) Step out in faith Even when they don't make sense to us.

D) That in order to even begin to discover God's will for our lives we have to be aware of a fundamental truth about us and God. – That truth is found in Isaiah 55

Isaiah 55:6-9 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

God wants us to seek Him – He wants us to know Him but he also wants us to understand something that He says here in the following verses

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, God is saying:

Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. – We don't think alike & we don't act alike.

We must understand this!

A) God is saying We don't think alike - & we don't act alike – **His thoughts are different so are his ways**

B) So the way that you and I would normally do things and normally react is often very different from the way that God reacts and responds.

Bb) **What seems logical to you and natural to you is often not the way that He would do things at all**
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts

C) **Lesson:** That which is naturally intuitive to us might end up leading us astray.

D) What might seem very logical to us: – from God’s perspective is not logical at all!

1) So we can’t necessarily trust our hearts and our natural intuitions or our ability to reason

E) In those things we can come up very short because God’s ways are not our ways – His thoughts are different from our thoughts

Here is a major problem that we face when it comes to our decision making!

A) Our decision making is limited to 3 things – Context, Perspective, and outcome.

B) And Our perspective and Context is always impacted by our desires and fears

1) Our Desires and fears impact every decision we make.

C) I was talking once to a young lady in our fellowship- who because of her background and things that happened growing up

1) She was really afraid to love and trust and be loved

D) That fear was really impacting her relationships – afraid to really get close to others.

1) Her perspective and experience told her – when you do that you get hurt

Our Problem is We have a limited perspective and a Limited context to work from.

A) Limited to Our lives – our time on this earth – Where lived – what done – What we have studied

B) But God’s perspective is higher / broader / deeper

1) His context is as big as all of Human experience and beyond

C) His Perspective started in Eternity past – goes right through all of Human History and into Eternity future

So How does that help us?

A) Well by giving us the Bible God is letting us in on His perspective – Slice of History – insight into His mind – His heart

B) He is saying: I want to broaden your context – I want to expand your perspective.

Bb)I want to add to your experience the experience of 100,000's of pp throughout human history who have loved me trusted me walked with me –

C) As well as the perspective of those who didn't I am going to show you my heart and reveal my ways

D)What God wants us to see is His proven track record in the lives of these pp over 1,000's of yrs **that give us insight into His ways –**

1) Insight into what happens when pp trust Him!

Does that mean that I have to become a Bible scholar to be able to discover God's will? – no

A) Why can't God just text me and say: Rob do this or do that – that would be so much easier

B) Answer is this: God wants you to know His will – but more than anything He wants you to Know Him

C) The more we know Him the easier it will be to discern his will

Remember growing up – You sort of figured out – how your parents thought!

A) Friend would say Ask your mom if you can come over – You would say – no I know what she is going to say:

B) Don't need to ask – she is going to say No – because You know How your mom thinks

1) School nite - whateve

You learned growing up that there was a certain time to ask Dad about things

A) Not until eaten or better yet when he was busy – didn't want to be bothered { Give in easier

B) He is really busy – not paying attention: Dad can I borrow the new Car – Sure –

1) Can I have \$100.00 – Yea / Can I sell my brother

C) Dad Said!!!!

You learned certain things – that it was better to ask Mom than dad and Vice Versa

A) Basically you learned how to Manipulate your parents { Not surprised your kids doing the same

B) Really Pt is over time you came to know how they thought How they acted – how they would respond in certain things

Well one of the reasons that God has given us his word is so that we can learn how He thinks –

A) How He acts – How He responds in situations

B) Now the idea is not so He can be manipulated – because You can't manipulate God –

1) Where Some in the Word faith movement go wrong believe that if they believe hard enough

C) Name it and claim – some how twist God's arm to get their way: They Yell – stand on their head

1) They resemble more the 450 Prophets of Baal –

Contrast to them is the Prophet Elijah who simply knew His God –

A) He understood what Jehovah stood for and what He would want to do – in revealing Himself to the Pp

B) So Elijah offered up a very simply prayer – God show them

1) MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN!

My PT GOD doesn't want to be a mystery to us!

A) He wants us to become familiar with **His MIND**
His WAYS / HIS HEART!

B) He wants us **TO KNOW** His heart His ways!

Deuteronomy 29:29

"**The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever...**"

C) Don't get me wrong there are always going to be some mystery to God this side of Eternity

D) But God has done two major things to reveal Himself to man

1) He has given us – His word

#2 He sent His Son! Jesus came to reveal God the Father.

John 1:18

"**No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**"

E) The more acquainted we become with His Word and His Son –

1) The Better we will know His heart / His mind and His ways.

Ever been in a situation where you need to make a decision and thought of someone you really respected and wondered –

what would they do in this situation?

A) Dad Grandpa / Teacher / Good friend
Someone you have watched make Wise decisions

B) Many of us – have patterned our lives around – those examples - I know how act

That is How God wants us to be with Him!

A) So acquainted with his ways that we know How He would react and respond

B) And that happens as we spend time w/ Him in HIS WORD!

C) We are going to finish this series next week by looking at Romans 12:1-2 {Starting pt 1) as we talk about **how God speaks** to us thru His word – Thru His spirit – thru Pp / Situations

D) Today I want to make one pt from this passage

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 {Test, sort out and discern }what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

So As we spend time in God's word – our mind is renewed – our thinking is challenged as we see things the way that God does.

A) Now with that in mind I want to finish to today by giving you some practical direction for Bible reading

B) 3 things to look for when you are reading the word.

Look for 3 things:

1st Look for Jesus – that is to be the heart of all Bible study what does this book tell us about Jesus.

In the volume of the book it is written of me!

Regularly read Gospels – What is Jesus doing and saying – How is He treating Pp.

Disciples - Wisdom on family – people – Guide to new believers

2nd Look for Promises:

A) Promises reveal God's heart – God is the great Promise maker – and promise keeper.

B) Blessing for us 1 Corinthians 1:20 All the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ Jesus – Yes = certain – count on – Amen = true.

C) If you are in Christ – They belong to you – over 7,000 promises – { Some future / Some now T/P

3rd Look for Principles: What I mean by Principles are timeless truths that don't Change!

AA) Found throughout the Bible

A) No matter what society is doing – what Generation you are a part of - what is politically correct – doesn't matter – these are truths that don't change –

B) Like Gravity: Doesn't matter if I think it exist or not – Gravity is real – drop pen

Look for those when you are reading – begin to write down and familiarize yourself with them and you will come to discover God's ways.

C) Here is what you will find: Some Principles are Stated, ...Implied,Illustrated

Let me give you are few examples; Stated:

Galatians 6:7 – You reap what you sow! – Timeless truth – even an unbeliever realizes that

A) You sow an Apple seed – reap apples –

B) What you sow in your life – what you plant into your life is what you are going to reap

1) Sow to the flesh = Destruction/ sow to the Spirit – reap everlasting life

2 Corinthians 9:6 **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly** – If I plant one apple seed – only going to end up with 1 apple tree – I sowed sparingly –

A) If I want a lot I need to plant a lot

B) Same thing is true in the Spiritual realm – sow sparingly – reap sparingly –

1) It is a Stated timeless truth!

Proverbs is loaded with them

Proverbs 13:20

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

Principle: The people that you spend the most time with are going to influence you!

Implied timeless truth: theme that runs throughout the Bible: The law is for the rebellious and grace is for the those who repent!

A) God is gracious and He is Holy – His righteousness and grace go hand in hand.

B) He wants righteousness – When someone is being rebellious – He judges punishes –seeks to break –

C) But when we simply repent and come to Him in Humility – he is ready to forgive when we repent

1) **He gives grace to the Humble**

Illustrated Biblical truth: Maximum freedom happens when I am under God's authority!

A) Revealed to us in the opening pages – When were Adam & Eve the most free ? When they were under God's authority –

B) They only had one restriction: - Don't eat of the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and evil**

C) Satan's lie – was you are not free at all. – God is holding out on you.

1) That is why He doesn't want you to eat of this tree

D) As soon as they ate – they discovered what real bondage is! –

1) Bondage to sin – to their flesh – to guilt and condemnation { Naked and ashamed – Hid themselves

Maximum freedom happens when we are under God's authority

A) Problem with some of you here today: You don't realize that –

B) You still think that if you become a Christian – you surrender your heart to God – lose your freedom
1) **Reality you will never be more free** –

C) Free Discover – your true Destiny!

D) Some of you played prodigal – because you are believing Satan's lie – God is holding out

Place yourself under God's authority and discover what Freedom really is – His Love / His Plan.

A) His heart –

B) So we have established today: God thoughts are higher..... His ways than our ways.

C) But God wants us to come to know HIM

1) His ways / His thoughts –

D) That happens as we seek Him in the word

1) See Jesus – See Promises – See Principles

Close Isaiah: 55:10-11

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower, And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Teaches us that God accomplishes His will thru His Word! His word is tried and Proven - VOID!

Starts with heart Surrendered – Saved