

[Getting to the Midnight Breakthrough]

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts"

Introduction

God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

- * Rarely does God do something exactly as we think He will.
- * Our problem is that we try to second-guess God, saying, "Oh, now I know what God is planning to do!"

Moses experienced this as he learned how God was going to deliver the Hebrews out of Egypt

- * God told him He would harden Pharaoh's heart.
- * Yet, the result was not what Moses anticipated.
- * Rather than allowing the Hebrews to leave, Pharaoh increased their hardship.
- * Rather than becoming a hero among the Hebrews, Moses was despised by them for bringing greater suffering.

Exodus 5:22 [NIV]

"22 Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me?

23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all"

Moses returned to the Lord and asked, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people?"

- * Why is it You have sent me?"

2.

This sermon was birthed in my spirit during my weekly prayer meeting with some of our area pastors, we have been meeting once a week for several years now.

[Note: Going from a prayer mtg. that Am. into a business mtg. in the Pm.]

* It was during this prayer time that the Lord dropped this sermon title into my heart “*Up Till Midnight*” - *[Getting to the Midnight Breakthrough]*

Now this title is not about staying up or awake until midnight, no, no, I am talking about what must take place or has taken place in your life up until the midnight hour, what has been Gods activity, what is your activity that will get you to the midnight hour – what will get you to a midnight breakthrough

Have you ever done the will of God and then things seemed to become worse?

* Moses completely misunderstood what the results of His obedience to God would be.

* When things did not turn out as he anticipated, Moses became discouraged.

* God had told Moses what to do, but He had not told Moses what the consequences would be.

It is foolish to attempt to do God’s work using our own “common sense”

* God does not eliminate our common sense, He consecrates it

* He gives us His wisdom so we can understand His ways.

As you look back on God’s activity in your life, you will recognize the supreme wisdom in how He has led you.

* As you look forward to what God may do, be careful you do not try to predict what He will do next.

* You may find yourself completely off the mark.

1. The First step that will get us to the Midnight Hour is to seek His thoughts and His ways.

3.

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts"

* "My Thoughts" – *Mac-hash-abah*

Meaning: device: plan: purpose: invention

The Lord is saying "My thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention] are not your thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention]..."

Before you can get a midnight breakthrough you must first get to midnight.

Exodus 11:4

And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt"

* At midnight Gods' presence, power and judgment came into Egypt

* The Children of God received from Moses - Gods Thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention]

* They applied the blood of the lamb to the doors of their homes, covered by the blood.

* Who would have thought that? God and His Children

Psalm 119:62

"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments"

* 119 Psalm – *Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God*

* At the Midnight hour – Midnight breakthroughs birth a '*rise up*' thanks – You are on your feet! You are not down! You are up, not only up but you are giving thanks to God – Because He has moved fairly and just.

* His thoughts have manifested in your life!

* Somebody hear me, Midnight breakthroughs must be celebrated – His thoughts suddenly manifest in your life – in your situation!

His thoughts are not your thoughts!

4.

Acts 16:25

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them”

- * At Midnight
- * Paul Prayed to the Lord
- * Silas Prayed to the Lord
- * Paul Sang to the Lord
- * Silas Sang to the Lord
- * AND THE PRISONERS HEARD THEM

At midnight men of God were in prison because they *[Paul and Silas]* came against the power of a unclean spirit of divination, against sin, against the power of sin coupled with money verses the power of Jesus' name”

- * The Lord led them
- * They were doing the work of the Lord
- * And they ended up coming against strongholds

The First step that will get us to the Midnight Hour is to seek His thoughts and His ways

Isaiah 55:8-9

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- * “My Thoughts” – *Mac-hash-abah*
Meaning: device: plan: purpose: invention

“My thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention] are not your thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention]...”

- * One of the words that tell us what thoughts mean in this scripture is *invention*
- * Invention – The Act of Inventing Something – A process or device
- * Creative Ability
- * From the Latin Word: “Discover”

5.

The Lord is saying “My thoughts [MY Invention: The Act of Inventing Something – a process or device – MY Creative Ability – My Discoveries] are not your thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention]...”

Paul and Silas had to get this deep into their spirit long before they came to a Midnight Hour

** “My thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention] are not your thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention]...”*

Another Word that is embedded in the very meaning that defines Gods Thoughts is *Device*.

* Device

* Meaning: A thing made or adapted for a particular purpose

* The Design or look of something

The Lord says:

My thoughts [Device: A thing made or adapted for a particular purpose : My Design of look of something] are not your thoughts [Inventions / Devices]

His thoughts

Exodus 11:4

And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt”

Psalm 119:62

“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments”

Acts 16:25

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them”

*** What examples of Gods Plan and how he uses us!**

6.

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* Ways [*deh'-rek*] **meaning:** - Road: Distance: Journey: Manner: Direction: Way of course of life: Moral Character

The Lord is saying:

"My thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention] are not your thoughts [device: plan: purpose: invention]..."

"...Nor are your ways [Road: Distance: Journey: Manner: Direction: Way of course of life: Moral Character] MY ways [Road: Distance: Journey: Manner: Direction: Way of course of life: Moral Character] ..."

This will get us up to the Midnight Hour

This is what gets us up to the place of a Midnight Breakthrough

Acts 16:25

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them"

- * At Midnight
- * Paul Prayed to the Lord
- * Silas Prayed to the Lord
- * Paul Sang to the Lord
- * Silas Sang to the Lord
- * AND THE PRISONERS HEARD THEM

What got them to this place?

Acts 16:16

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer..."

7.

Prayer is the place, the position, the discipline that takes place before Midnight Hours and will manifest during Midnight Hours.

* **Acts 16: 12 -15**

- * **Philippi was the Chief City**
- * **The Chief City in Macedonia**
- * **The Paul and his company were in this city**
- * **On the Sabbath they attended a prayer meeting by a river**
- * **They prayed and they preached Jesus**

A women by the name of Lydia a professional business owner was present, she was a Jewish proselyte, she listened to the Gospel and received the Lord, immediately she was baptized in the waters of the near by river.

- * **The Bible tells us that her whole house hold was led to the Lord by her**
- * **She opened her home and opened her wealth for the Lords ministry**

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* **You see *who would have thought that Lydia and her household would receive Jesus?***

* **Oh, you see the Lord knew!**

* **Lydia, her family, her home and her wealth all came to Jesus.**

You see what we do before the Midnight Hours, how we respond to His thoughts, His ways have a direct effect on souls.

- * **Now see this the setting was a Chief City**
- * **The center of Strongholds and Lost Souls**
- * **Paul and his team on the Sabbath Day – held a church service**
- * **Down by the River**
- * **The Church Service was First a Prayer Service**
- * **That Prayer Service birthed a preached word**
- * **Notice that women were in attendance, in fact it is implied only women**

Chief City – The Center of Attention in that Region

Strongholds and the Lost – Set Up

A Prayer Service – PRAYER – GOD TALK- GOD HEARING

Down by a River – In the natural a river – manifested in the spiritual

Prayer led to a preached Word – Breaks the yokes of bondage

Women Present – In the nature they birth – in the spiritual also

Lydia a powerful prestigious women got saved and her household!

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- * God had Paul and his team in a very good place
- * Ministry was at its finest
- * This is how we like it - but remembers His thoughts and His ways!

Remember getting to a Midnight Hour, getting up to Midnight Breakthrough take submission to His Thoughts and His Ways

Lets look what took place just after this river service

Acts 16: 16

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel [young lady – a women] **possessed** with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying"

The Setting

- * Prayer
- * A Possessed Woman
- * Spirit of Divination [The practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means. [Latin word: 'Predict']
- * She had monetary ties that brought commerce and financial gains
- * Are you seeing something here?
- * From one prayer meeting and events into another prayer meeting and events.

Acts 16: 16

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel [young lady – a woman] possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying”

Acts 16:16-18 [Message]

“One day, on our way to the place of prayer, a slave girl ran into us. She was a psychic and, with her fortunetelling, made a lot of money for the people who owned her. She started following Paul around, calling everyone's attention to us by yelling out, "These men are working for the Most High God. They're laying out the road of salvation for you!"

Note:

- * **First Prayer Meeting** – Salvation took place for Lydia and her household
- * **Second Prayer Meeting** – Salvation is the subject – spirits manifested
- * Notice the need for maturity in Christ
- * Notice the vital importance of Prayer and how hell hates organized prayer among the Saints of God

This young psychic girl using fortunetelling was making large amounts of money for those who owned her.

- * The spirit of Divination
- * With this spirit, attached to it is the spirit of greed and materialism

This spirit will always birth deception

- * They will use God and his name
- * They will try to align themselves with Gods work and his anointing
- * They will always try to come along side a true testimony [in this case Paul and his team]
- * They are a false witness for God

Acts 16: 18 [Message]

“She did this for a number of days until Paul, finally fed up with her, turned and commanded the spirit that possessed her, "Out! In the name of Jesus Christ, get out of her!"
And it was gone, just like that”

10.

Now we see the Power of Jesus' name

- * The false witness lasted many days
- * In the KJ Version it says "...Paul, being grieved.." or simply this young ladies testimony "troubled" Paul's spirit.
- * As soon or immediately when Paul spoke to the spirit, "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour" [V:18]
- * This was immediate – a complete deliverance!

My friends this was Paul not Jesus!

Point is that if Paul could rebuke and call unclean spirits out - if Paul could speak to the possessed in the Name of Jesus and they were delivered so can those who follow Jesus.

- * Follow this now
- * Going to Pray they meet unclean demonic spirits

As soon as Paul took authority and commanded this spirit out we see what the power of money and greed will stir up against Salvation.

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- * Oh, help us to understand your thoughts Lord, Oh, help us to walk in your ways, Oh, help us with our faith

The salvation of this young girl proved different but the same as Lydias

- * Remember – they are heading toward a Midnight Hour – a Midnight Breakthrough
- * Both were women
- * Both had access and monetary influence
- * Both were lost and needed Jesus
- * Paul and his ministry team were used to lead them to Salvation

11.

These events, the Salvations that took place led Paul and Silas closer to a Midnight breakthrough

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The Bible tells us in Acts 16 that as soon following the deliverance of the young possessed girl – those who owned her and made profit from her came against the move of God, came against those who served Him

- * They were beaten and cast into prison**
- * The jailer was charged to keep close watch over them**
- * Receiving such orders the jailer put them in the inner prison and made their feet fast in stocks.**

Acts 16: 25

"And at MIDNIGHT Paul and Silas PRAYED and SANG PRAISES unto God: and the PRISONERS HEARD THEM!

- * This brought forth a mighty move of the Lord**
- * SUDDENLY there was such an earthquake that the very foundations of the prison was shaken in such a way that immediately ALL THE DOORS of that prison were opened and every one in that prison's chains were broken!**

This woke up the jailer out of his sleep – when we saw what had taken place he drew out his sword to kill himself

- * Hell tried to stop Salvation**
- * BUT PAUL CRIED OUT! [Acts 16: 28]**
- * With a Loud Voice – Do no harm to thyself we are all here!**

This brought the jailer to his knees and he fell down before Paul and Silas

- * He cried out, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**
- * They said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved and thy house!**

12.

Conclusion

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts"

- * Look at all that took place leading up to their Midnight Hour!**
- * Paul and Silas being used by the Lord lead many to Jesus!**

