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Opening: God tells us He is far above, exalted over His entire creation. Being so lofty might make us feel like we cannot know Him well. The opposite is true, God wants us to not only know that He exists, but He wants us to understand His heart and His ways. Today let us uncover the ways of God so that we can be more aware of His hands working in our life daily.

Key Verse: Isaiah 55:7-11 6**Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.** 7Let the wicked man forsake his own way and the unrighteous man his own thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. 8“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” *declares the LORD.* 9“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. 10For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, 11so My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it.

1. Call upon Him while He is near: Isaiah 55:6

- a. The prophet of God calls on the people of earth to consider the brevity of this life. The time to seek God is in this life to prepare for the next.
- b. God has given humanity the opportunity to know Him, to escape the corruption of this life, but we must take the opportunity.

c. **Life Lesson: “The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized in the lifetime of that opportunity” Leonard Ravenhill**

d. The call of God includes salvation, salvation is not just forgiveness of sins but includes adoption into becoming a son of God who is being trained and equipped for His service. **Titus 2:12, Hebrews 12:7 Luke 6:40.**

2. God defines how we must seek Him Isaiah 55:7

a. Put to death and forsake the wickedness and corruption of our previous life, totally and completely.

b. **Matthew 5:29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.**

i. By comparison Jesus is saying we must see our previous life for what it truly is, dead. We must also understand that God will help us to cut free from all that is holding us back if we are sincere.

c. God wants each of us to lay waste to the previous idols in our life. Only when we do this will we be able to seek Him properly. What idols are common to mankind?

i. **1st John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.**

ii. As bible believing Christians God offers us a new value system not built upon this broken world but built upon a Kingdom which operates under different spiritual laws, ways, works and values.

- d. The problem we Christians have is that we may allow God to work some things out of our life, but we tend to hold onto a few remnants from our past life as a just in case.
- e. Remember the example of Israel entering and settling in the promise land, they didn't completely drive out the corrupt people groups around them, and they later would suffer because of it.

3. Accepting God as He is not as we want Him to be

- a. **Isaiah 55:8** God tells us through the prophet that we have become a people whose ways, and thoughts are not even on the same spectrum as His.
- b. **God took on a human form in the person of Jesus Christ. He was still 100% God when He walked the earth.**
- c. A subtle temptation is to make Jesus into what we wish He would be and not as He actually is.
- d. **The Rich Young Ruler Mark 10:17-27** He found out that Jesus didn't come to form a religion of comfort complacency but to call all people to repent and to leave their old lives for a new one.
- e. **Key Question:** In what ways, even subtly have each of us defined God with parameters that don't fit the biblically revealed Jesus?
- f. Is our view of Jesus too Authoritative, Nice, Soft, Busy, Complacent, Compliant, unreachable, unknowable, non-judgmental, corrective, gracious?
- g. The problem every generation in our world is idolatry. What is idolatry, idolatry is taking the true image of the incorruptible, righteous, Holy and loving God and replacing Him with a version that is distorted.
- h. The culmination of this idolatry will occur on earth in a person named "Anti-Christ, or lawless one, or son of

destruction. The original language for “ Ant- Christ means opposed to Jesus for the purpose of substituting.

- i. What we see happening today, is substituting of Christ for a version of Jesus that the Bible does not speak of. That Jesus does not call people to know, understand or even live the “ways of God” but excuses away the ways of God with a message not rooted in Biblical truth.

4. The Bride is compatible for her groom

- a. The Church is the body of Christ, we are His hands and His feet alive to do His will in the earth.
- b. God is looking for a compatible people that will seek to know Him that will say yes to the call to come up to a higher place so that He may reveal His will and plan to them.
 - i. God’s plan His will is corporate for the salvation of the world, and His will is unique for each individual believer.
- c. A people that knows His ways, that understand the mind of Christ, who can correctly represent Him to a world that is constantly making gods that fit and suit their plans, ways, and agenda’s.
- d. Roman’s 11:33-34 “O the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements, **and untraceable His ways!** Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?”
- e. This scripture that the Apostle Paul quotes in the New Testament tells us that those who want to walk with God will press in to lean on His **understanding above their own.**

5. God’s Ways will prevail in the earth Isaiah 55:10-11

- a. **“Just as”** God is saying that the earth is completely reliant upon Him for provision. Everything in the earth needs God. Think of how the Sun provides for planet earth, without it we would be in the dark and everything would die. (Watering Example)
- b. **The water comes from above, above us, higher than us. God is calling each of us to look up when the going gets tough, to look for Him.**
- c. **Life Lesson: You may have exhausted your ability to produce a solution to your situation, but God is never without solutions to the problems we face.**
- d. **“So is my word”** God’s word will provide in accordance with His will. His word and the life built on His word will process.
- e. **“It will accomplish.”** It will win, it will fulfill, it will finish what He sent it for.

6. God’s invitation to each of us

- a. Turn off the distractions and come away with Him.
- b. God is offering all of humanity the open door into His very heart to not just know it but to receive it as our own.
- c. God has an invitation into His presence to join Him in the school of the Holy Spirit, where we are taught and learn how walk as Jesus did.
- d. We can learn His ways, and we will prosper because of them. Our soul will flourish in the ways of God. Outwardly our flesh may fade but inwardly we will find a renewing of our soul.
- e. God’s invitation to know His ways is iron clad and unchangeable the offer stands today.
- f. **John 15:15-16** **15No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing.**

**But I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you.
16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.**

7. What are the ways of God, we should see them as tools.

a. God has principles, truths, understanding and wisdom keys that once we understand them we can apply to life's situations to see Heaven's will come to pass. They are can be difficult for our carnal nature to receive them.

- i. "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled"
Matthew 23:12**
- ii. "to find your life you must lose it for Christ"
Matthew 10:39**
- iii. "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who hurt you" Luke 6:28**
- iv. "A seed must fall to the ground to produce a harvest" John 12:24**
- v. "The last shall be First, and the first shall be the last"
Matthew 20:16**
- vi. What's on the inside matters more than the outside.
Matthew 23:26-27**
- vii. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20:35**
- viii. "What a person sows that will they also reap"
Galatians 6:7**
- ix. How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver! Proverbs 16:16**
- x. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"
John 14:15**