

HANDOUT PART TWO BUT GOD MANKIND

TODAY'S TEXT: READ ROMANS 5:6-8

- Have you ever Been Working Through Your Life's Plan...Only in the Midst of it, to have God Interject a Different Plan—His Plan—And Change Your Agenda?
- What Do You Do When God's Plan Interrupts Your Plan? How did You Deal with it?

All of the Great Biblical Heroes Experienced and Responded Favorably to God's Divine Interruption. God Disrupted their Regular Routines and Great Things Happened! READ Proverbs 16:9 and Proverbs 19:21

- BUT GOD Sometimes Reveals His Plan to Change Our Direction and At that Point We Must Be Willing to Surrender Our Plans to His Plans.
- However, If we are Not Careful, We Can Cling Tenaciously to What "We Think" and What We are Comfortable with, Which can Cause Us to Miss the Perfect Will of God.

READ Acts 8:26 Philip was having great success leading a citywide Revival in Samaria, God asked him to Leave Large Numbers of People and Go Out to the Desert. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage.

- *He ended up bringing the Ethiopian Eunuch to Faith in Jesus, and then Baptized him.*
- In the natural, Philip should have stayed where the larger numbers of people were, BUT GOD Interrupted Philip's Plans with His Own.

KEY: This Change of Direction Didn't Change Philip's Call...But it Did Change his Assignment.

- Point...*There Can be a Difference Between a Calling and An Assignment.*
- We All Have A Calling From God ...But Within His Calling We are Given Many Assignments in life.
- GOD Interrupts our assignments as it Pleases Him...But Our Essential Calling Does NOT Change.

In Acts 16 Paul and Silas traveled through Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit Prevented them from Preaching the Word in the Province of Asia at that time. Then, they headed North for the Province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did NOT ALLOW Them to Go There.

- That night Paul had a Vision: A man from Macedonia in Northern Greece was standing there, Pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and Help Us!" Paul's Plans were Interrupted Again.
- **LESSON: Paul was "Spiritually Sensitive" enough Not to Push ahead with his Own Plans when the Holy Spirit Closed the Door.**

Here we learn about "the Process of Elimination". At this phase of his journey, Paul found out what the will of God was NOT, Before he Found Out what it WAS.

- **LESSON...Sometimes You will Hear "NO" a Few Times Before You Hear "YES!"**

The Apostle Peter had A BUT GOD Moment in Acts 10:13. Peter had a vision 3 times of a sheet being let down from heaven, containing all kinds of "Unclean" Animals. He heard a Voice sayng, "Rise, Peter; Kill and Eat" Peter had Protested based on his Jewish, Purity, but he Soon Realized that the Issue was Not Food...BUT PEOPLE...Later...Peter would Preach the Gospel, and Cornelius and the other Gentiles with him would be Gloriously Saved and Filled with the Holy Spirit!

Our Flesh Loves the Status Quo and Enjoys the "Comfort Zone," BUT the Mature Christian Will Welcome Divine Interruptions! Here are 3 Reasons We should Welcome God Interrupting Our Plans with His Plans.

1. Is 55:8-9 God's ways and thoughts are higher and better than our ways and thoughts
2. 1 Corinthians 13:9 We Only Know in Part, But God Knows Everything.
3. Eph 3:20 God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

KEY: We should always stay open ...Allowing God To Interrupt Your Plans.

Our Lives are filled with interruptions, inconveniences, frustrations and unexpected events. Things break. Accidents happen. Unexpected illnesses change our carefully crafted plans...Etc...Etc!

- Interruptions give Us Opportunities to Rely on God. Interruptions and unexpected events do Not Catch God off guard. They are not random, meaningless events. These interruptions are Divinely Placed in Our Path for a Reason. God Uses Interruptions to Change US to be More like Christ.

We often Overlook these Interruptions and Inconveniences and Instead Expect God to Work in Our Lives through Huge Life-Changing Circumstances...But the reality is, we often won't have major events in our life that cause us to trust God and obey him in some deeply profound way.

POINT: You and I Don't Live in a Series of Big, Dramatic Moments...We All Live in an Endless Series of Little Moments. The character of Your life is NOT set in 10 Big Moments... *The Character of Your Life is Set in Ten Thousand Little Moments of Everyday Living.*

- You See...It's Our Response to the Struggles that Emerge from those Little Moments that Reveal what's Really Going On in Our Hearts.
- I Call Them Life's "Interruptions of Grace". *These 10,000 little moments come in the form of our children asking us to play a game when we are tied up with something else.*
- They are moments like when we get stuck behind a school bus when we're already late to an appointment, or when we have a flat tire on the way to work.
- *They are in All those Moments Throughout the Day when Things Don't Go Our Way, Our Plans Fail, and Our Life is Interrupted.*

It's these moments where the rubber meets the road...Our Faith is Stretched and We Look Down to See Whether We are Standing on ROCK or SAND.

- Do we really Believe that God is in Control of All the Details of Our Life?
- Do we really Believe that His Grace is Sufficient to Get Us Through the Day?
- Do we really Believe that the Gospel of Christ is Powerful enough Not only to save us for Eternity, But also to Sustain and Strengthen Us in the Midst of Life's Storms?
- Do we Believe...Christ is Enough to Satisfy All the Deepest Needs of Our Heart?

These Interruptions are Acts of God's Grace. They Force Us to Work Through these Questions...They Make Us Face Our Sin.

KEY: They are God's Way of Taking Off Our Blinders and Making Us See that We Need the Gospel in Every Moment of the Day.

They are a Light that Shines on the Darkest Recesses of Our Heart, Revealing the Truth of what's Really There— the Sins and Idols that We've Pushed Off Into the Corner, Thinking that If We Can't See Them...They Must NOT Exist!

These Interruptions Remind Us that We Don't have Life Figured Out and that We Can't Do It On Our Own. They are like the Shepherd's Rod, Pulling Us Back from Our Wandering Ways, Back to Our Great Shepherd.

These Interruptions Push Us to the Cross of Christ Where We Must Remember the Gospel and Receive His Grace and Forgiveness.

For This Reason...We Praise God for His Sovereign "BUT GOD" Interruptions!

- *Because it is as We Surrender to His Intervening in Our Lives...That People Will See Christ, and We Will Accomplish His Plan to Build His Kingdom!*

"LIFE" POINT "Christ Cares More About Our Transformation than About Our Daily Comfort."