

God's High Thoughts And Ways For Marriage

Isaiah 55:6-9

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- Verse 6: *"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while he is near."*
- Verse 7: *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."*
- Verse 8: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts: neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."*
- Verse 9: *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways**, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Examine the Text

- *"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found."*
 - We are obligated to seek the Lord.
 - "While He may be found" implies a time limit.
- *"Call ye upon Him while He is near."*
 - In one sense He is always near, Acts 17:27.
 - But there are times when one is more aware of His nearness.
 - In youth when the mind is open, Ecclesiastes 12:1.
 - In times of sorrow, Ecclesiastes 7:2.
 - When the gospel is preached and believed, Acts 2:37.

Examine the Text

- Verse 7. *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts."* Why?
 - He (God) *"will have mercy ... will abundantly pardon"*
 - God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours!
- Fact:
 - We cannot fully comprehend how much higher the heavens are above the earth!
 - It is equally as difficult to comprehend how much higher God's thoughts and ways are above our thoughts and ways.

God's "High" Thoughts and Ways are Revealed in the Scriptures!

- They are given by inspiration, I Corinthians 2:10-13.
- The Scriptures are *"profitable,"* 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- By the Scriptures we are to *"live,"* Matthew 4:4.
- With the Scriptures we had better not tamper! Revelation 22:18-19.
- God's **"High"** thoughts and ways are designed to govern every relationship of life!
 - They equip us unto every good work, 2 Timothy 3:17.
 - *"In all thy ways acknowledge Him,"* Proverbs 3:6.

God's "High" Thoughts and Ways For Marriage

- Evidenced in His reasons for marriage.
 - For companionship, Genesis 2:18.
 - For procreation of the human species, Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 19:3-4; I Timothy 5:14.
 - Co-habitation outside of marriage is sinful! Hebrews 13:4; I Corinthians 6:9-10, 18.

God's "High" Thoughts and Ways For Marriage

- Evidenced by His concept of marriage.
 - A God-ordained relationship, Genesis 2:18.
 - A union of a male and a female, Genesis 2:21-23; Matthew 19:3-4.
 - A union of a male and a female who are both "free" to marry, Romans 7:1-3; Matthew 19:9.
 - A union entered into in keeping with the laws of the land, Romans 13:1; Matthew 19:7

God's "High" Thoughts and Ways For Marriage

- Evidenced by His concept of Marriage (continued)
- Marriage is a "Covenant," Malachi 2:14.
- Marriage is a union consummated by their coming together in a "one flesh" relationship, Genesis 2:24.
 - Involves Leaving.
 - Involves Cleaving ("to glue or weld together").
 - Involves becoming "one flesh" – a union which constitutes a unity of the totality of a husband and a wife.

God's "High" Thoughts and Ways For Marriage

- Evidenced by the fact that the marriage relationship prefigured the church and its relationship to Christ, Ephesians 5:25-32. This implies:
 - The God-ordained sanctity of the marriage relationship, Hebrews 13:4.
 - That the ideal and happiest marriages are those wherein both parties are both "one flesh" and "one" in Christ.
- Evidenced by its permanency, Romans 7:1-3; Matthew 19:6. Note Malachi 2:16.

Man's Attempt to Substitute His Low Thoughts and Ways for God's "High" Thoughts and Ways

- The Philosophy of Humanism.
 - Based on Atheism, Evolution, and Situation Ethics.
 - The philosophy which largely guides the N.E.A.
 - The philosophy which guides Hollywood, TV, and much of the media.
 - The philosophy embraced by Planned Parenthood.
- The New Morality
 - Views the moral precepts of the Bible as a dead, pre-set code that is outdated.
- Existentialism (begins with self).
- Play-Boyism.
- False religions.

The Effect of Man's Low Thoughts and Ways on Marriage

- Marriage looked upon as a human expediency.
- Regarded as a union whereby the one man – one woman relationship may be exchanged for:
 - One man and multi-wives (usually in succession).
 - One woman and multi-husbands.
 - Homosexual and lesbian relationships.
 - Living together in out-of-wedlock arrangements.
- Regarded as a union which may be severed at will.
- An Increase in single-parent families.
- An increase in disease, suicide, drug addiction, and crime.

Conclusion:

- As Christians, we should strive to be a part of the **solution** instead of the cause of the modern dilemma regarding marriage and the home.
- The solution to our nation's domestic problems lies largely in the home, not in the government.