

# LOOKING TO GOD #2

## Doing Things God's Way

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### I. Introductory Remarks.

**Colossians 3:1-3** NKJV *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

In this series of messages we are seeing that it is in when we look to God, that we find it possible to keep our lives focused on God's purposes vs. our own selfish desires.

- In the first message we saw that we must deny self and lead a God-centered life to truly know the will of God.
- We saw that we must focus on God's purposes rather than our own plans.
- We must seek to see from God's perspective rather than our own distorted human perspective.

**Ephesians 1:18** NKJV *...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...*

- **We must open our spiritual eyes to see what God wants to do through us and then join Him in the work.**

In this message I want to talk about doing things God's way. If we are to experience God in a dynamic way we must learn to do things His way rather than our own way.

- **Moses failed when he tried to do it his way.**

Who delivered the children of Israel from Egypt? Moses or God? God did. God chose to bring Moses into a relationship with Himself so that He--God--could deliver Israel. Did Moses ever try to take matters about the children of Israel into his own hands? Yes.

Understanding what God is about to do where I am is more important than telling God what I want to do for Him. We see this in the example of Moses when he first got the idea to deliver Israel from their bondage to slavery under the Egyptians.

**Exodus 2:11-15** NIV *One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.*

Moses began to assert himself on behalf of his own people. What might of happened if Moses had actually tried to deliver the children of Israel through a human approach? Thousand's and thousand's would have been slain. It cost Moses 40 years of exile in Midian working as a Shepherd (and reorienting his life to God-centered living).

- **Moses succeeded when he allowed God to do it His way.**

When God delivered the children of Israel there was not one person lost nor any feeble persona among them.

**Psalms 105:37** NKJV *He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes.*

God's ways are indisputably better than our ways, so why do we persist in doing things our own ways rather than God's way.

## **II. God's Ways.**

**Isaiah 55:8-9** (NKJV) *"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.*

These verses are intended to motivate repentance by explaining that the Lord's plans and methods are better than those a man may devise on his own.

### **1. The Problem of Resisting God's Ways.**

We see in Scripture that the Nation of Israel got in trouble time and time again because they would not listen to God and His ways. This is precisely the reason we get in trouble as well. We are stubborn and refuse to submit to God's ways.

**Psalm 81:10-12** (NIV) *I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. "But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.*

**Jeremiah 7:23-24** (NIV) *but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.*

- **What had God already done for Israel?** He had delivered them from the Egyptian bondage of slavery and brought them forth with mighty signs and wonders.
- **What did God promise to His people?** He promised to bring them into the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey, which represented prosperity.
- **How did the people respond?** They continually responded with hearts of unbelief and stubbornness. They continually hardened their hearts through murmuring and complaining.
- **What did God do?** He kept them out of the Promised Land. They all died in the wilderness.

## 2. The Blessing in Adapting To God's Ways.

**Psalm 81:13-14** (NIV) *"If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, {14} how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!*

- Israel would have quickly subdued their enemies and entered the Promised Land if they would have heeded to God's ways rather than stubbornly walking in their own ways.

God has given to us so many wonderful promises in His Word. He desires for us to walk in the abundance of life receiving all things that pertain unto life and godliness, but it is only as we choose to walk in His ways and not in our own plans and devices that we inherit the blessings.

You must decide whether you would rather follow your own plans and wander around in a spiritual wilderness or follow God's ways and quickly enter the Promised

Land. This is your choice, a choice only you can make for yourself. You can't live off the faith others.

### III. Concluding Remarks.

- Understanding what God is about to do where you are is more important than telling God what you want to do for Him.
- We should all be seeking God for His agenda for our church, community, and nation at this crucial time in history.
- Do you know what God's ways and His guidelines are for the following areas of your life:

In your personal life  
In your family

In your church  
In your work

In your community  
In our nation

In your life there are things that are about to happen in the lives of the people around you in any one of these areas. Suppose God wants to use you to influence others in a godly way. Are you ready to acknowledge God's way in your life and be used by him or are you going to give into your self-centered tendencies whether it be lack of confidence, fear, life focused on self, or looking at things through your own human perspective? The choice is yours. But remember your sufficiency is in Him and not in your own capabilities or lack of them.

**2 Corinthians 3:5-6** (NRSV) *Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*