

131 – Meet the Inscrutable and Happy God

We have studied before how different God's perspective is from ours. The Apostle Paul says, in **Ephesians 1:11**, that God is "***The One Who is operating [the] all according to the counsel of His will.***" This is especially relevant today, as we look at our lives, and the lives of those we know, love, and serve. Events have occurred and are now taking place, which could cause people to scratch their heads, wondering, "What is God thinking?" ...that is, unless his sons and daughters, whom His decisions affect directly, are trusting Him **implicitly**. God's sovereignty, so many times, just doesn't look like what we would think. All we are accountable to do is hear and heed; to believe God and take the only steps we know to take, as He illuminates the path in front of us a little at a time.

God is wise not to show us a lot in front of us at one time, because He knows that we might try out-thinking Him even more than we often do already, because we might think we have a better plan. We are wise to watch out for the "*God would nevers,*" because He may do **exactly** what we think He'd never do; OR He may do something we never anticipated at **all**, because He alone knows His **entire** purpose for our lives and the lives of others **IN** our lives.

One person we know appears right now to be facing the most unconscionable display of blatant disregard for righteous motherhood and parental rights that we have ever seen, in favor of stupidly awarding child custody to an abusive, belligerent, overbearing man, whom we suspect of abusing his child. For all appearances, this is an insane proceeding. OK, well, that's how it may look to you and me; but God is sovereign. He knows full well what actions are being taken, even as we speak. The scripture that comes to mind is **Romans 8:28**:

28 Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, **[keep reading]** who are called according to the purpose

29 that, whom He foreknew, He designates beforehand, also, to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be Firstborn among many brethren.

Both mother and daughter in this case I referred to a moment ago, love God and are called to conform to the image of His Son. Conforming to His image includes suffering for His sake and for the sake of the evangel. We know that His word is truth; therefore, He is working all of this current situation for their good. This is the only perspective that can be applied to this situation.

Nothing has happened that God has not authored, let alone allowed, and if we are trusting Him, then we HAVE to conclude that both the mother and the daughter in this case are entirely in the center of God's sovereign will for their lives, regardless of appearances. Remember, we must not believe what we see, but we must see what we believe. While we're at it, let us remember always that we may have what we say. This is in accord with God, and It must never be the other way around in us.

A word was spoken over this situation, revealed by God's spirit, a few months ago: "***It's an iron clad case, and He will self-destruct.***" Well, it IS an ironclad case, going in the opposite direction that you and I would imagine, according to the counsel of His will. This can only mean that God has lives in store for both mother and daughter far beyond what you and I may be capable of conceiving. The second part of the word, "***He WILL self-destruct,***" will also be fulfilled; it's only a matter of time, and that, too, may look completely different from what you and I might think.

30 Now whom He designates beforehand, these He calls also, and whom He calls, these He justifies also [***remember that this means the declaring innocent of all charges***]; now whom He justifies, these He glorifies also.

As we have seen countless times before tonight: everything ends up well...so well, in fact, that we will be able to look God in the eye and say, "Thank You. Thank You, Thank You. I'm glad that happened, exactly as it did. I agree with David, when he wrote **Psalm 119**:

¹³⁷ **You are righteous, O Yahweh, And Your judgments are upright.** ¹³⁸ **Your testimonies which You have enjoined are righteous And very faithful.** ¹³⁹ **My zeal gnaws at me, For my foes forget Your words.**

¹⁴⁰ **Refined is Your saying – Your promise exceedingly, And Your servant, he loves it.** ¹⁴¹ **I am insignificant and despised Yet I do not forget Your precepts.** ¹⁴² **Your righteousness is eonian righteousness, And Your law is truth.** ¹⁴³ **Though distress and constraint, they have converged on me, Your instructions are my delectations.** ¹⁴⁴ **Your testimonies are eonian righteousness; Give me understanding that I may live.**

Romans 11:33

33 O, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How **inscrutable** are His judgments, and untraceable His ways!

In other words, God's judgments cannot be searched out. Don't think you're going to figure them out, and don't even think that they CAN be figured out. Paul says that His judgments aren't just *hard*; they're impossible to understand! Notice that Paul does NOT say that God's WORD is inscrutable, only His judgments and His ways.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (CLV)

For My designs are not your designs, And your ways are not My ways, averring is Yahweh. ⁹ **For as heavens are loftier than earth, So are My ways loftier than your ways, And My designs than your designs.**

God takes only the counsel of His own will; He doesn't ask anyone for his opinion, let alone his input; what He decides, He determines. You can like it, you cannot; You can agree with it, you cannot; it's His province to judge, and how He does it is entirely His business.

I believe that I can say we can all rest assured that God has judged or is now judging the situation with the mother and child to which I'm referring. We look at it and throw up our hands at the obvious insanity of it in our eyes. God's judgments are inscrutable

34 For, who knew the mind of the Lord? or, who became His adviser?

35 or, who gives to Him first, and it will be repaid him?

36 seeing that out of Him and through Him and for Him is [the] all: to Him be the glory for the eons! Amen!

Now look at the context for this declaration by the Apostle:

Romans 11:22-33

22 Perceive, then, **the kindness and severity of God!** On those, indeed, **who are falling, severity**, yet on you, God's kindness, **if** you should be persisting in the kindness: else you also will be hewn out.

23 Now they also **[speaking of Israel]**, if they should not be **persisting** in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

24 For if you were hewn out of an olive wild by nature, and, beside nature, are grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much rather shall these, who are in accord with nature, be grafted into their own olive tree!

25 For I am not willing for you to be ignorant of **this secret**, brethren, lest you may be passing for prudent among yourselves, that callousness, in part, on Israel has come, **until the complement of the nations may be entering.**

26 And thus **all** Israel shall be saved, according as it is written, Arriving out of Zion shall be the Rescuer. He will be turning away irreverence from Jacob.

27 And this is my covenant with them Whenever I should be eliminating their sins.

28 As to the evangel, indeed, they are enemies because of you, yet, as to choice **[that is, God's choice]**, they are beloved because of the fathers.

29 For **unregretted** are the graces and the calling of God.

30 For even as you once were stubborn toward God, yet now were shown mercy at their stubbornness,

31 thus these also are now **stubborn** to this mercy of yours, that now they also may be shown mercy.

Watch this next verse, because here is a demonstration of God's inscrutable judgment and untraceable ways:

32 For God locks up all together in stubbornness, that He should be merciful to all.

33 O, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How **inscrutable** are His judgments, and untraceable His ways!

Paul says, in effect, “Man, I don’t get this anymore than you do, but we’d better recognize and respect God’s wisdom and knowledge that far over-reach our own.”

Now, Juxtapose all we have seen tonight with Paul’s first letter to Timothy, in which He calls God , “**the Happy God.**”

1 Timothy 1:

5 Now the consummation of the charge is love out of a clean heart and a good conscience and unfeigned faith,

6 from which some, swerving, were turned aside into vain prating [empty repetitions],

7 wanting to be teachers of the law, not apprehending either what they are saying, or that concerning which they are insisting.

8 Now we are aware that the law is ideal **if ever anyone** is using it lawfully,

9 being aware of this, that law is **not laid down for the just**, yet it is for the lawless and insubordinate, the irreverent and sinners, the malign and profane, thrashers of fathers and thrashers of mothers, homicides, 10 paramours, sodomites, kidnapers, liars, perjurers, and if any other thing is opposing sound teaching,

11 in accord with the evangel of the glory of **the happy God**, with which I was entrusted.

12 Grateful am I to Him Who invigorates me, Christ Jesus, our Lord, for **He deems me faithful, assigning me a service**,

13 I, who formerly was a calumniator and a persecutor and an outrager: but I was shown mercy, seeing that I do it being **ignorant**, in **unbelief**. [IOW, I couldn’t get it – the evangel of Jesus Christ because I was stuck in unbelief. Paul calls that ignorance].

14 Yet the grace of our Lord **overwhelms**, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

15 Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all welcome, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, foremost of whom am I.

16 But therefore was I shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ should be displaying all His **patience**, for a pattern of those who are about to be believing on Him for life eonian.

IOW, Paul says, “If Jesus Christ can stand to save Me, because of His incalculable patience, overwhelming my stupidly sinful hide with His own faith and love, He can most certainly save you!”

17 Now to the King of the eons, the incorruptible, invisible, only, and wise God, be honor and glory for the eons of the eons! Amen!

18 This charge I am committing to you, child Timothy, according to the preceding prophecies over you, that in them you may be **warring the ideal warfare**,

Let’s not be so foolish to think that we aren’t at war; we most certainly are, but we also now know that we aren’t at war with an entity, name Satan, or even with demons, but with the force of opposition and enmity toward God within ourselves and throughout “**the present wicked eon**” in which we live. Great! So how do we **war ideally**, according to Paul?

19 **having faith and a good conscience**, which some, **thrusting away**, have made shipwreck as to the faith;

20 of whom are Hymeneus and Alexander, whom I give up to Satan **[to the force of adversarial opposition]**, that they may be **trained** not to calumniate.

look at the purpose for turning someone over to the force of adversarial opposition, at the end of verse 20 (5 words, the number of grace): that they may be **trained**

Holy Father, I pray tonight that we would each look at our lives tonight, in the relentless light of Your love, mercy and grace. Where are **we** being trained, Father? What classes are we attending today in this Holy Spirit University in which You have enrolled us. Lord, develop in us, and help us to develop faith – total trust in You – and a good conscience, never to thrust it away from us. Holy Father, I pray that all of us are warring ideally, recognizing and appreciating Your grace that overwhelms our ignorance and unbelief with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

Holy God, you are THE Happy God. Why, then, would ever think to accept anything less but the exact same joyousness springing from within that

Characterizes Your very nature? Oh, God, may we be entrusted, as Paul was, with ***“the evangel of the Glory of the Happy God.”*** May it live in our hearts and minds, crowding out, dissolving, and over-writing any other evangel.

May we each ***“love out of clean heart and a good conscience and unfeigned faith.”*** We acknowledge, accept and bow before Your inscrutable judgments and Your untraceable ways. We give you all our worship, all our praise, all our honor, and gratitude for everything You wrote into our lives, knowing us so much more thoroughly than we could know ourselves. We give you all our worship, all our praise, all our honor, and gratitude for everyone Whom You determined to cross our paths, knowing whom we must need meet to refine us more and more into sons and daughters of Yours, and brethren and sisteren of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful, Father, beyond words, that You do not regret Your calling and graces, even though we were once stubborn. I pray we are no longer unbelieving, in which we find Your severity, but that each of us may, if by any means, be believing, like Noah, like Abraham, like Moses, like David, like the prophets, like the apostles, and of course, like Jesus Christ, because there we may be continually persisting in Your kindness.

“Now to [You] Who is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us, to [You] be glory in the ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!” (Eph. 3:20-21)