

Lesson 24 Devotion

Isaiah 55:8: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

For those of you who have been married, you likely have discovered that men and women do not think alike. There was a popular book by John Gray many years ago that was titled, “*Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*” The title was obviously pointing out that men and women more often than not think differently. My wife, Vickie, and I have been married for over 36 years, and after all this time, we do think a lot alike. However, both of us will at times marvel at either how little I can be thinking of or how much she can be thinking of.

A popular comedian today was talking about how his wife often asks him where he comes up with the outrageous things he thinks about. His funny response to her is, “How many stories do you need to hear about my childhood and follow the breadcrumbs to see the psycho you married.” The point I’m making is we are all different and come from different backgrounds and bring perspectives that are foreign to each other. In other words, we each have thoughts and ways that are different from each other. This is part of the way we learn from each other.

The distance from the Earth to moon is approximately 240,000 miles. The distance from the Earth to sun is around 93 million miles. Take those two fun facts and set them against Isaiah 40:12a, “Who [the LORD] has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span.” God is a BIG God – far beyond what our meager brains can comprehend. To get the fullness of this verse’s message, we should combine it with the next one, which says, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

These verses certainly command an awe and respect for God. However, God’s size, by itself, is not what should bring us joy and peace regarding His thoughts and ways. What should bring this joy and peace is the heart, or mindset, behind what drives His thoughts and ways. In other words, are these thoughts and ways of His coming from a good place and to help me? This is why a great verse to provide as the foundation to rejoicing in the power and wonder of our memory verse is Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

These thoughts of the Lord’s that are not ours.....these ways of the Lord’s that are not ours, are coming from a place to give us peace – not evil. They’re coming from a heart that wants to give us a future and a hope. Therefore, the next time you pray to God about something, if He says, “Let Me think about it,” you can know His response will be what’s best for you.