**R876\_Rumination for November 07, 2021**

The **T**heme: **God’s Thoughts and God’s Ways** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.*Isa. 55:8

The **T**hots:

1. **God’s Thoughts and God’s Ways Isa. 55:6,9**
2. The **C**ontemplation Isa. 55:8

*My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.*

1. The **C**omparison Isa. 55:9
*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways,*

*and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

1. The **C**onsiderations: See the real-life Examples below.
2. **God’s Thoughts and Man’s Thoughts; God’s Ways and Man’s ways:**
3. The Case of the **S**ickness and **D**eath of Lazarus:
4. The **S**isters’ Thoughts re: their brother’s **S**ickness. Jn. 11:3

*His sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.*

1. **M**artha Thought her Lord did not care that her brother fell Sick and allowed to Die. Jn. 11:21

*Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died*.

1. **M**ary Thought likewise: Jn. 11:32

*Mary…fell down at His feet, saying…Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.*

1. The **S**pectators’ Thoughts were **S**imilar: Jn. 11:37
*Some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?*
2. The Lord’s **S**upreme and **S**overeign Thoughts:
3. Jesus’ **O**riginal Thoughts: Jn. 11:4
*He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God,*

*that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*

1. Jesus’ **O**rdered Ways: *Jesus said, Take ye away the stone* Jn 11:39
2. Martha’s “**O**utrageous” Thoughts: *Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him,*

 *Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.*

1. Jesus’ **O**utspoken Thoughts and Ways: Jn. 11:43-45

*When He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*

*And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*

1. The **O**utcome of the Lord’s Ways:

*Many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.*

* Jesus’ Thoughts and Ways were Different from Man’s Thoughts and Ways!
1. The Case of Jonah’s **S**kipping away from God’s Thoughts and Ways.
2. God’s Thoughts: His **S**ure word to Jonah – Jon. 1:2

*Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before Me.*

1. Jonah’s Thoughts and Ways to **S**kip God’s Ways and run Away. Jon. 1:3

*But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*

1. The Lord of the **S**ea’s Ways: Jon. 1:4

*The LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea,*

*so that the ship was like to be broken.*

1. The **S**ailors’ Ways to **S**ave themselves: Jon. 1:15 (KJV)

*So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.*

1. The Lord’s Way for a big fish to **S**wallow up Jonah and to **S**pit him out later. Jon. 1:17; 2:10

*Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights…the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*

1. The Lord’s Thoughts re: the **S**on’s future **S**acrifice: Matt. 12:40

*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

1. Cf. It was **S**imilar to the Lord’s Thoughts expressed to Martha: Jn, 11:25

*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

1. The Case of the **S**trang Fire.
2. Nadab and Abihu thought they could **W**orship God in their own Way: Lev. 10:1;
*And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein,*

*and put incense thereon, and offered* ***strange fire*** *before the LORD, which He commanded them not.*

1. God’s Way: God **S**truck them dead! Num. 3:4a; 26:61

 *And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD*

Con.: Always **Be** in God’s Thoughts and **Do** all in God’s Ways to Prosper:

As Abraham’s **S**ervant **S**eeking a Bride for his **S**on, Isaac: Gen.24:27

*He said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham,…I* ***being in the way****, the LORD led.me…*

*All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside?*

 *Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my guide?* Fanny Crosby

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 876**

1. “*I Did It My Way*” was a song made popular by Frank Sinatra. Certainly, this is not God’s Way as it emphasises what a man did and was proud of what he did. It took no recognition of God’s role in his life. It is completely self-based. Examine the lyrics below.

**The Lyrics** https://www.youtube.com › watch

 **I did it my way**

*And now, the end is near And so I face the final curtain*

*My friends, I'll say it clear I'll state my case of which I'm certain*

*I've lived a life that's full I traveled each and every highway*

*But more, much more than this* *I did it my way*

*Regrets, I've had a few But then again, too few to mention*

*I did what I had to do And saw it through without exemption*

*I planned each chartered course Each careful step along the byway*

*But more, much more than this I did it my way*

*Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew*

*When I bit off more than I could chew*

*But through it all, when there was doubt I ate it up and spit it out*

*I faced it all and I stood tall And did it my way*

*I've loved, laughed and cried I've had my fill, my share of losing*

*And now, as tears subside I find it all so amusing*

*To think I did all that And may I say, not in a shy way*

*Oh no, no, not me I did it my way*

*For what is a man, what has he got If not himself then he has not*

*To say all the things he truly feels And not the words of one who kneels*

*The record shows, I took the blows But I did it my way.*

Source: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com/)

Songwriters: Claude Francois / Gilles Thibaut / Jacques Revaux / Paul Anka

My Way lyrics © Warner Chappell Music France, Jeune Musique Editions, Concord Music Publishing LLC, CONSALAD CO., Ltd

It is not unlike what the rich fool said in his hey-days as recorded in Lk.12:16-20, NKJV –

*"The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*

*And he thought within himself, saying,*

*'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'*

*So he said,* ***'I will do this:***

***I will*** *pull down my barns and build greater,*

*and there* ***I will*** *store all my crops and my goods.*

*And* ***I will*** *say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years;*

*take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." '*

*But God said to him, 'Fool!* ***This night your soul will be required of you;***

***then whose will those things be which you have provided?****'*

In both cases who is actually in charge and who has the final **S**ay?

Is “*the end*” the end of one’s days? Will there not be “***God’s Day***” to reckon with?

To whom will you **S**urrender the Control of your life This Day? **REFLECT**

1. Can I be sure that I will have the time to accomplish all that I want

 when “*I do it my way*” to finish what I want to do? **REFLECT**

**POINTS TO PONDER: My Way or Your Way – Choose God’s Way!**

*Jesus said to him, "****I am the way****, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* John 14:6 (NKJV*)*