

- > In this world, things that seem “**Impossible**”, can come in a great variety... they can be: material, emotional or spiritual in nature. They typically represent anything that we really desire, but cannot achieve. **Yet**, the opposite holds true for God... God functions in the Divine realm... a realm where He holds the keys to the locks, that He locked. What God opens, no one can close. What God closes, no one can open! Because of HIS ability to change things, that WE cannot change - God reigns supreme over all that we believe to be Impossible! **For example**, if I believed that the aurora borealis could Never make it as far south as South Georgia - God said, “**Watch this world**”, and thus it appeared on May 10, 2024. God’s Power over the Impossible, **amazes us** trivial human beings every time!
- > The Truth of our Inabilities, and God’s Ability, is greatly expressed in the Bible in **Matthew 19:26**, “*Jesus looked at them and said, “**With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible**.”* NIV
- In context, this word came on the heels of a discussion about: “**who could get into heaven**”. When Jesus laid out some parameters, His own disciples started to question: “**who then can be saved?**”

> **Today's message title is: "Possible Impossibilities"**.

-- That sounds like a contortion of words... but to understand my thought, let me play on these two words for clarity.

1) an "**Impossible Possibility**" means: ***The possibility of something, is really impossible...*** (*what we thought was possible, turned out to be impossible - not going to happen*) – or as Jesus said, "**With man, this is impossible**".

2) a "**Possible Impossibility**" means: ***The impossibility of something, is really possible*** (*what we thought was impossible, turned out to be possible - can happen / what we would call a "miracle"*) – or as Jesus said, "**But with God, all things are possible**".

-- **Just know that**: whatever or whoever "**WE**" think cannot be changed, salvaged, or saved, "**GOD**" CAN always do what we find to be impossible – for He is "The Author" of Possible-Impossibilities!

> **The idea**, that I want us to get today, is this: We are NOT to "***count people out***" of Grace & Salvation, based on "**OUR**" evaluation of them – ***it's NOT our job!*** We ARE to love people, in-spite of their issues – *just as God loves us unconditionally!*

> **So**, I searched God's Word, looking to find an example of what I'm talking about today – and I found it in **Matthew, the 27th chapter**.

-- In this reading, the Centurion and his other Roman soldiers, were tasked with beating Jesus to a pulp, and crucifying Him; which they effectively did! As the end of Jesus' earthly life came to a close, He cried out aloud, and gave up His Spirit - "*Father, into Your Hands I COMMIT (ENTRUST) My Spirit*". After this, suddenly - the Divine happened... darkness covered the area – rocks split open – the earth began to quake – and the dead rose out of their graves.

...then in **Matthew 27:54**, the Centurion and his Roman soldiers (*who had just crucified Jesus*), explained, "**Surely, He was the Son of God**" NIV.... (**No doubt**, God accepted this comment, as the soldiers "**Profession of Faith**")

> **OK**, so lets shift things around a bit... **Now**, you & I would think that this Roman officer (*and his compadres*) would deserve the worst death, and deepest, darkest, spot in hell, for killing Jesus (*God's One & Only Son*). **I mean**, in our minds, we could come to the conclusion that: there is **NO WAY** that these dudes could ever get into Heaven (*the Home of Jesus, who they just killed*). **BUT**, at the last second (*right after Jesus gave up His Spirit*), GOD REACHED DOWN, AND SAVES

THESES GUYS! Wait; What? *That ain't right!* *That's not Just at all.* These dudes should be fleeing God's wrath at this point; **BUT GOD**.... *Yeah, But God* reaches His Hand out and saves these fellas. That's when the Centurion (*and the others*) quickly exclaim, "*Surely, this was the Son of God*".

...**OK**, that's good enough for God; He'll take their simple expression of faith!.... *But really,* You & I had these boys judged & condemned to hell forever, **BUT GOD** does the **Impossible** - the absolute **Impractical** - the highly **Irregular** - outrageously **Improbable** - totally **Inconceivable** - mind-blowing **Incognizable** thing...

...*Yeah for sure,* God separates our heads from our shoulders, by saving these sinners! *And, isn't that what messes all of us up today, about God?* He does what we wouldn't do! He doesn't act like we act! He does the unbelievable! He proclaims salvation to the most undeserving of us all. He doesn't condemn all who sin, yet offers them Mercy & Grace! *Come on,* we had all of these soldiers judged & condemned to hell; **Yet,** God didn't! *Is there something wrong with God, or is the problem with us?* This true story should blow all of us away. Just when we thought these guys were too far out of God's Reach to be saved (*Mega-sinners in our minds*), God shows that "*His Arm is NOT too short*" to reach any of us! **Isaiah** reported this eons ago - **Isaiah 59:1**,

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save; nor his ear too dull to hear.” NIV

- **We all need to** let this be a reminder to us, that: God chooses to save those: **1)** whom we thought were too far gone, or **2)** who we thought shouldn't be saved, or even **3)** those that we've already condemned to hell.

- > **You know**, there was a time in my life, when I personally would have condemned the Roman Centurian and his lynchmen to hell, for what they did to Jesus before & upon the cross. **BUT GOD** saw things differently than I did, and He chose to save them! **And the deal is**: We all better be happy that God saw things differently - because if He didn't, we (*none of us*) might not get into heaven either! God saves anyone, out of His Abundant Grace - *as well as*, out of His deep Love & Compassion for us! Salvation has nothing to do with our: looks, careers, wealth, social-status, possessions, works, good name, etc., etc. – God saves us out of His Love & Grace, period! **Therefore**, the “Possible-Impossibility” is available to EVERY human soul, whether “WE” think it is right or not!

- ...**Understand**, God functions “**anti-culturally**”. He functions out of His culture, not out of ours. So, what makes no sense

to us, makes perfect sense to God. From heaven, God will do with people, as **HE** sees fit – Not as **WE** see fit!

...Better understand **John 21:20-22**, *"20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "**Lord, what about him?**" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, **what is that to you?** - **You must follow me.**"*

...**OK so**, I don't have the time to read the whole passage, but **Matthew 20:1-16**, starts out with: *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner (God), who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius (a full day's wages) for the day, and sent them into his vineyard."* After the early morning (6am) hires went to work, the landowner started to hire others between the hours of 9am and 5pm. When the day was done and the landowner started paying the people, the workers received a mighty shock. The landowner did NOT pay on an hourly basis – everyone got the same pay! **Verse 11** says, that when everyone received the same amount, *"they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 These who were hired last, worked only one hour, they said - and **you have made them equal to us**, who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day. Can't you just hear them (us) saying, "That's NOT fair!" But listen to the landowner's*

(God's) response in **verse 13**, "*I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. **I want to** give the one who was hired last, the same as I gave you. 15 **Don't I have the right to do what I want** with my own money? Or **are you envious because I am generous?**" **Verse 16**, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."...(that's God's Culture).*

- **With this**, I say again, God functions "**anti-culturally**"...(or, *NOT as this world functions*)! What make no sense to us, makes perfect sense to God! God will deal with people, as HE sees fit – Not as WE see fit!

-- **Republicans**, is God being "unfair" to allow Democrats into heaven? **Democrats**, is God being "unfair" to allow Republicans into heaven? **Seriously**, Heaven is God's House, and He can let in who HE WANTS! God will let in any: Republican, Democrat, thief, cheat, prostitute, murderer, and the vilest of sinners – who have chosen to **accept** God's offering of His Son on the cross, for the redemption of their sins... He does it, because "**He doesn't have favorites**" among us! So truly, "*we are saved by God's Grace*", and by no other means or ways!

-- If God can make such a major (*mighty & magnificent*) change in the hearts of these Romans soldiers (*who moments*

earlier, had just poured out the most awful, cruel, evil, punishment ever on Jesus, whom they had just crucified) –
Then, what else can God truly do for ALL people?

-- **I reiterate**, this message is about the: "**Possible Impossibilities, that God is CAPABLE of doing!**"

move to closing.....

> **Instead of us** seeing the Impossibility of certain people being able to be reached towards salvation, we really need to maintain the viewpoint of: **the very real Possibility that God CAN (at any moment), reach out and save them!**

...And, that is exactly HOW God works, and WHAT He is doing – for the Bible says (**2 Peter 3:9**), "*God is patient with each of us – He does not want anyone to be destroyed (lost), but rather wants everyone to repent*". NLT

-- **You know**, I've never seen such "**hate**" happening, as is going on between the Republicans & Democrats! **Frankly, that ought not to be!** **Yes**, we have differences in our: opinions, values & morals, but we all have the same human "*broken*" soul – Not a one of us, deserves heaven! **To repeat**, **Romans 2:11** gives us the bottom-line, to God & His Salvation - saying, "**God does NOT show favoritism!**". NOBODY is greater or lesser than others, in God's Eyes!

We are **ALL** sinners, in need of His salvation! And this agrees with **Romans 3:23**, "**We ALL have sinned, and therefore have fallen short of getting into heaven**".

-- **Point then**: We must MAINTAIN a viewpoint (*about people's souls*), just like Jesus did. **John 2:24-25** says that, "*Jesus would **not** entrust Himself to them, for He knew ALL people. He did not need any testimony about humankind, for He knew what was in each person!*" NIV **So**, the viewpoint is this: **Jesus did not trust people so much, but He trusted in what He knew that GOD could do for people** – even those that society had trashed, or thought unworthy of salvation & heaven. If this was Jesus' understanding, then we all better get on with seeing people as He did & still does. **He KNEW** that God could do "***the Possible, with the Impossible!***" (**Lord knows**, *I've been so Impossible to Him, and yet He still reached out & saved me!*).

-- **Hear me**, I'm driving the point that: even though some people look to us, like they could Never be candidates to enter the Kingdom (*Home*) of God – **Yet**, with God's Grace & Help, they CAN..... **low**: "***With man this would be Impossible, but for God it is Possible!***" He totally CAN bring them (*us*) into His Kingdom-Home, by His Divine Influence & Power! **Never, ever, count anyone out - when God counts them in!**

- > **Personally**, **I want to live more into** some of Jesus' last words on earth.... On the cross He said, "*Father, forgive them, for they **DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING***".
- People who yet to know Christ, do not really know anything about Him. Therefore, they cannot be EXPECTED to live the Life of Christ, that they do not know! Without His Spirit, they CANNOT live His Life – and believers must stop EXPECTING them to do so! **Honestly**, none of us know what forces (*things*), have caused people to be who they are today. We DO NOT KNOW their: Backgrounds, Battles, or Burdens – so we must give each other some Compassion/Mercy!
- **But** listen, what we DO KNOW, is that: **God** *can change them & save them, starting from right where they are today!* **He alone** can change people from the "*inside-out*", where nothing of this world can contort His Work, or stop it!
- May we all find **Compassion** (*Mercy*) for every human being, even if they do not conform to "**OUR**" image of what a good person is, or should be! **Jude 22-23**, "*22 Have mercy (Compassion) on those who doubt - 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire - to others, show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.*" ESV
- > **Folks**, I know that some of our family members and friend's salvation, may seem like an Impossibility (*even hard for us*

to give them Mercy/Compassion) – **BUT GOD** does Not have an Arm that is too short to reach them, and draw them unto Himself. Each of our lives (*souls*) belong to God, and it is His Work to save us – (*we do Not have a dog in that fight* – *we do Not have any say so, in God's Choices & Decisions, as to who He saves!*).

* **Alright... So, What can we do for ALL people?...**

- 1) We are NOT to "**count people out**" of God's Grace & Salvation, based on "**OUR**" evaluation of them – ***it's NOT our job!***
- 2) We ARE to love people, in-spite of their issues – just as God loves us ***unconditionally!***
- 3) We are to **TRUST God and Jesus**, to do the Impossible, and save those that we think can never be saved – just as Jesus told us to in **John 14:1**, "***Trust God, trust also in Me.***" (*that is where our Faith lies, to TRUST God with everyone's souls!*)
- 4) We should do the most loving thing that we could do for them – **PRAY FOR THEM...** pray that their eyes will be opened to God & His Truth, so they may be as one snatched & saved from the fires of hell.

-- ***But please***, if you remember anything of this message,
remember this: **TRUST God** with whatever looks, or may be,
Impossible! **TRUST God** with everything that is Impossible
for you to Control, or Comprehend – and then, LET HIM do
the rest!

Discovery Questions:

- 1)** Have you ever come to the wrong conclusion about someone?
I mean, your initial evaluation about them, later proved to be wrong?
- 2)** Have you ever thought to yourself, that someone: 1) would never amount to much, or 2) would never be able to change, or 3) that they were hopeless and doomed to a life of troubles; and 4) maybe even unsavable.
- 3)** What do you really think about Jesus' comment in Matthew 19:26 - that with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible?
- 4)** Reread Matthew 27:50-54... Do you believe that the centurion and his crucifying comrades received salvation; esp. with their profession "Surely, this was the Son of God"?
- 5)** If you answered that you believe that the centurion & the other soldiers did indeed receive salvation that day at the cross – then answer this: "WHY" would God have done that; esp. the way they treated His Son?
- 6)** If Christ's soul-saving acts upon the cross, and God's choice of giving us all unconditional love are absolute (in-spite of our greatest trespasses against Him) – then explain "why" it is that we human beings struggle to offer people the same,

whether we like them or not?

- 7)** Looking at the culture of how the world operates, and the great difference in how the culture of God & His Kingdom operates – explain which you believe is functioning properly (God’s culture or ours), and why you believe this way?
- 8)** As it relates to our judgement of some people never being a candidate to getting into heaven, and to God’s amazing unconditional love & ability to do all things – what did the prophet Isaiah have in mind, when he wrote Isaiah 59:1? Think deeply on this, as it relates to who all “WE THINK” is unreachable & unsavable.
- 9)** What all was Jesus trying to tell Peter (*and “us”*), in John 21:20-22? To really answer this question, highlight in your Bible the 2 Bigs questions: Peter asking, “What about him?”, and Jesus responding, “What is that to you?”
- Was Jesus telling us to “get out of the way of His Work of saving ALL souls?” Is it true that: we sometimes get in Jesus way, interfering with His Work in others?
- 10)** So the question of the day: Can some Republicans and some Democrats stand side by side in the Kingdom of God – along with tax collectors, prostitutes, murders, thieves, etc.?
See Matthew 21:31

- 11)** Can Romans 2:11 really be true, that I am NOT God's favorite human being? So really, God does not see any of us as His favorites? I suppose we should look closer to the meaning of Romans 3:23!
- 12)** Somebody tell me what 2 Peter 3:9 means, when it says that: "God wants NO ONE to be destroyed" and that He "wants EVERYONE to repent and be saved"? Who then are we, to count some people out of this Word?
- 13)** Doesn't Jude 22-23 scream to us, about our mission to EVERYONE under the sun?
- 14)** Isn't it true that: God's DIVINE Influence & Power, does indeed cause the Possibility of the Impossible to happen; esp. as it relates to: God being ABLE to change EVERY human soul, from the inside-out?
- 15)** Ultimately, when it comes down to the disposition of everyone's soul, didn't Jesus give us the remedy in John 14:1 - that we are to "Trust God" with soul-matters; just as He did when He died on the cross, "Father into your hands I ENTRUST my spirit"?
- 16)** Has this message impacted you about: how you might THINK about and TREAT, all of God's people? Remember, "there is NO condemnation for those who are in Christ!"