

Riddles

When My World Is Shaking

Sunday, April 18, 2010



Nuggets for Navigating

- RESOURCES - (Gotta make that money)
- RELATIONSHIPS - (Life's most complex maze)
- READINESS - (Living By Design)
- REVELATION - (Who told you so?)
- RIDDLES - (When My World Is Shaking)
- REVERENCE - (Have You Ever Been in Love?)
- RESULTS - (Life is No TV Show)
- REPAIRS - (...for broken places)

What NOW?
Navigating the Maze of Transition, Trials and Change

Proverbs 1

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction,
To perceive the words of understanding,
- 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom,
Justice, judgment, and equity;
- 4 To give prudence to the simple,
To the young man knowledge and discretion—

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Proverbs 1

- 5 A wise *man* will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,
- 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma,
The words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father,
And do not forsake the law of your mother;
- 9 For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head,
And chains about your neck.

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Proverbs 1

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- Lord, I pray that the Word, today, would find good soil in my heart.
- I reject the thoughts of offense! Where the light of Your Word exposes my mistakes, I do not take offense. I will change and turn to You, my heavenly Father.
- I reject condemnation! Your Word says, "*That Jesus did not come to condemn people.*" This Word does not come to condemn me, but it comes to heal me.
- I reject accusation! Satan is the accuser of brothers and sisters and this Word does not come to accuse me or abuse me. This Word exposes satan and his lies and I choose to believe and receive the TRUTH.

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God says in His Word, “...blessed *are* my eyes for they see, and my ears for they hear; for many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what I see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what I hear, and did not hear *it*. (Matthew 13:16)

Therefore I will hide Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against (or miss) the will of God.
(Psalm 119:11-12)


Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your Word today. (Psalm 119:16-18)

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What NOW?
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**Tsunamis,
Earthquakes,
Floods,
September 11th, 2001**

**How could a God of love allow such a
horrible thing to happen?**



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Enigmas

Riddles are very tough and difficult questions whose answers lead us to clever reasoning or entrapping conclusions.

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Enigmas/ Riddles

1. A riddle can help you through your own thought process to see another point of view.
2. A riddle can shake your basic beliefs and understanding about yourself or your life.


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Riddle/ Sifting

Luke 22:31

“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.”


- One of the figurative meanings of the word sift is **riddle**.



Riddles/ Sifting

The effects of riddles can be seen in other definitions such as *to shake, quiver, vibrate, or to rock to and fro.*

These tough questions draw you into conclusions and reasoning that shakes or rocks you.



Foundation Shaking Riddles

Foundation shaking riddles hit us when tragedies like the earthquake in Haiti come into our lives.


Why did God let this happen?
How do you know you won't be next?



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Disappointments, devastation, decisions and destiny

- Riddles usually follow disappointments and devastation.
- Devastating disappointment usually involve something we believe God could have or should have changed or prevented.



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Why Does God Allow Riddles?

Luke 22:32:


“But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

Nuggets of Wisdom for Riddles

- Learn how to make it through the seasons of disappointment and devastation.
- Live with the questions that you do not have answers for.
- Trust the answers God gives you.
- Trust God with the answers He places on hold; even in the silence that says, *"I love you, but I cannot answer that question for you right now."*

Hard to Trust


- Hard to trust God when in the back of your mind you are convinced He could have changed or prevented the circumstances.
- Riddles can paralyze you with fear and insecurity about your future.
- You can get to the point where you will blatantly disobey God because you are not too sure of what He may allow you to go through.



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Course Changes and Shattered Dreams


- Riddles come when God allows our plans to fail.
- When plans fail it always means making changes because an expectation gets shattered.
- It means coming to terms with those things that were never meant to be.



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Nuggets of Wisdom for Course Changes and Shattered Dreams

- Changing your course does not mean God made a change.
- We are being forced to face the fact that we have been going in the wrong direction.



Dreams vs. Fantasies

- People go through so many unnecessary trials and pains simply because they were being led by their own desires (fantasies).
- What many believe is the pursuit of God (their dream) is actually the pursuit of fantasies.
- Riddles help us to learn the difference between dreams and fantasies.



Purpose of Riddles

- This kind of intense opposition quickly brings you to the point where you cannot believe God ever had a plan for you in the first place.
- Go back to square one

What NOW?
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SQUARE ONE

WE WERE FACED WITH DEADLINES
BEFORE THE BILLS CAME DUE
WE ASKED FOR A MIRACLE FROM GOD
BUT THE MORTGAGE FELL THROUGH
I KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAID
BUT STILL MY DREAM IS DEAD
CONFESSED THE POSITIVE VERSE
MERE WORDS THAT FELL TO EARTH?

SQUARE ONE, DID I REALLY HEAR GOD'S VOICE
SQUARE ONE, UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY
SQUARE ONE, HAVE I TOTALLY COUNTED THE COST
SQUARE ONE, DARED TO TRULY OBEY

SATAN BRINGS THE EVIL DEEDS
DESTROYS AND STEALS WHAT'S OURS
BUT I THOUGHT THIS WAS A TRIAL
TO SHOW GOD'S OVERCOMING POWER
IS MY MOTIVE SELFISHNESS?
MY INNER GOAL SIMPLY PRIDE?
I WANT TO KNOW FROM THIS DAY ON
HOW TO WALK BY GOD'S SIDE

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Answering Riddles

- Get back to the original thing God spoke over your life
- Seek His wisdom on how to bring it to pass.
- Take your dream and submit it to God

Nuggets of Wisdom

- Don't forfeit your purpose simply because you would not submit under counsel and advice.
- Don't wander from church to church and city to city looking for someone or something to endorse, affirm and support you.
- Don't spend your time searching for a cheerleader or a financial support system.
- Your lack of success can be due to refusal to humble yourself under fathers, mothers and mentors.

God's Way

God has set it up so that we need:

- extended hands guiding you as you grow,
- pointing fingers teaching you as you learn,
- loving arms holding you when you are discouraged.
- familiar hands laid upon you to thrust you forth into your purpose.

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Attacks of Hopelessness


- HOPE is a desire and an expectation based upon what God has revealed.
- There is greatness in you that God is revealing every day, but we often allow the riddles of satan to steal the desire and expectation. It is a literal attack of hopelessness.
- This attack is most effective when there are long delays and dry seasons in our life.

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Delayed Hope

Proverbs 13:12


“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.”



Riddles of the Wise

The riddles of the wise

- will not allow you to settle for mediocrity, wallow in self-pity, sink into depression, or retreat in fear.
- The riddles of the wise strengthen you to face the riddles of life.
- Make up your mind to stop running away from their riddles.



Riddles of the Wise

Do not run away from the people who love you and into the arms of those who only care about what they can take from you.

- The sifting riddles of *takers* will tear you down,
- The sifting riddles of the wise will build you up.