

## *“The Next 24 Hours”*

In a recent article, I read of a 21-year-old Mid-western farmer / cowboy who had won the national lotto. The prize winning exceeded 250 million. With such a large prize, naturally, he caught the attention of the media. Upon further discovery, it was revealed that the young farmer was from a very small farming town and as much of the local residents were experiencing, his parents and their farming business were facing very hard financial times. His family has never had much but the farm as their source of livelihood and the downturn of the economy had put a further strain on an already battered business. They were behind on bills and debt was steadily mounting. So winning the lottery, needless to say, was an amazing life changing experience! What might have seemed like a desperate situation one day became a totally different one the next day. When asked why he took so long to come forth with the winning ticket (he showed up a week later to claim the prize), he responded that he wanted to seek wisdom first before he came public to claim his winnings. The first thing he did at the press conference was thank God for this blessing and promised to be wise with it. I loved it! What a 24 hours for this man and his family! They will never be the same again! Now, before, any of you go out and buy lottery tickets or email me back with what the Bible says about gambling, I am not endorsing buying lottery tickets. My point is that anything can happen in 24 hours. In fact, you can go from being a zero to a hero and vice versa, within 24 hours. We can all attest to events where such situations did occur. Well, God specializes in the 24 hour turnaround experiences. He wants nothing more than to give us a new outlook, a new blessing, a new direction and it does not have to happen over a long period of time (although, God can take as long as He wants). It can happen instantly. Even at a moment's notice. Certainly, within the next 24 hours from now!

Wherever you find yourself today, whether good or bad, comfortable or uncomfortable, your life can be drastically different the next 24 hours. Do you believe that? I hope so. God can so direct your paths or redirect events that you can find yourself tomorrow in a situation that you never thought possible or dreamed of. When He says “that my thoughts are not your thoughts and neither are my ways your ways (Isaiah 55:8)” that means that anything is possible beyond what our puny levels of imagination, belief, or understanding can conjure. Just ask a few people from the Bible who experienced God's 24 hour turnaround experience.

After just having been freed from 400 years of captivity and harsh conditions from the Egyptians, the Israelites, led by Moses, thought for sure that they were doomed. On one side, pinned by the Red Sea (which was impossible to cross) and on the other side a very upset Pharaoh with his entire army bent on either killing or taking them into bondage again. Things do not get much bleaker than that. Now, if you would have told the Israelites that the next day they would be crossing the Red Sea on dry land because Moses was going to part the Red Sea on God's command, and as a extra added bonus, Pharaoh's entire army would perish trying to capture them...I believe that the Israelites would have asked you to leave the camp. Well, their situation changed within the 24 hours because that exactly what God did. (Read Exodus Chapter 14).

There would have been little chance of a shepherd boy from a relatively unknown area and family to have become the new king of Israel let alone single handedly kill the Philistine's warring hero giant. Yet that is exactly what happened to David (1 Sam 16: 1-13). Can you imagine, one day David is tending sheep and minding his own business when a prophet shows up to tell him that God has anointed him as new king of Israel? This day a shepherd boy, the next day an anointed king? I'm convinced that David, at his early age, knew what the rest of his life was going to look like...a shepherd, maybe moving up to farmer but that was it. Never in his wildest imagination did he ever consider that he would become Israel's greatest king! Yet, within 24 hours his situation changed. It happened to David and it can happen to you!

In the New Testament, we see additional incidences that after an encounter with Jesus, people's situations were changed instantaneously. We observe this in Mark 2:3-5, when a cripple lying on a mat was brought down through the roof so as to be healed by Jesus, and *was* healed. Or the cripple at the pool at Bethesda (John 5:6-8) who was an invalid for 38 years of his life until he encountered the Lord and was cured.

In reviewing another example, we find the woman whose serious health issue was responsible for twelve years of on going bleeding (Luke 8:42-44) and was healed upon touching the garment of Jesus. Finally, the centurion who sought Jesus for the healing of his long time and beloved servant, who was dying. (Matt. 8:5-14) The centurion wanted his servant healed and had enough faith that he knew that Jesus' authoritative command would heal his servant. All of these examples, with many more to refer to, have one thing in common and that is that all of these individuals were facing a particularly uncomfortable and painful dilemma on one day and yet the next day, their situations were completely different. I believe that if you would have met any of these persons the day before their miraculous healing and told them what was going to happen the next day, my guess is that they either would not have believed it or would have had a fair share of skepticism. Yet, the next day, things were positively different.

Today, God is still in the business of changing situations instantaneously. Whatever you are facing today or wherever you are in your spiritual walk, rest assured that while things may look bleak or in idle mode, God is not asleep at the wheel. He is constantly working behind the scenes. His plans for you are "to prosper you" (Jer. 29:11)...and bring you to a better place with new directives and perspectives. His call for you is to be ready because it may be a while or it may be within the next 24 hours.

***By Jesus Maymi***

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