

Week 2: Living Out the Hidden Options

Memory Verse: Romans 12:2

Scripture reading: Judges 7 : 1-14

Last week, we started looking into the idea of God's Hidden options for today's issues. Our society often reduces complex issues to binary choices, creating divisions and conflicts. Political polarization, for instance, forces individuals into categories like liberal or conservative, ignoring the nuances of human beliefs. This black-and-white thinking distorts discussions on social justice, such as racial equality and police reform, reducing them to pro or anti stances and hindering meaningful dialogue. Even within the church, polarized thinking can cause discord over theological interpretations or worship styles. To address this, we need to move beyond binary choices and adopt a more nuanced, inclusive approach that acknowledges human complexity and seeks to bridge divides.

I introduced Jonathan Malm's book "The Hidden Option" which explores the idea that God provides a hidden option in every situation, promoting harmony and aligning with His will. This concept calls for actively pursuing God's wisdom, praying for insight, and trusting His guidance to find paths that honor God and benefit everyone.

So today, we are once again turning to scripture to examine whether this idea holds up. The Bible is our ultimate guide, and it is crucial that any new concept or approach we consider is firmly grounded in biblical truth. By examining the

lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.'" (Judges 7:7).

SLIDE 3

This seemingly irrational strategy was God's hidden option, designed to ensure that Israel would recognize His power in their victory. In verses 16-18, Gideon divides his 300 men into three groups and arms them with trumpets, empty jars, and torches inside the jars—an unconventional arsenal for battle. This strategy highlights God's unique methods and the necessity for Gideon's men to trust and obey their leader, despite the unusual plan. It demonstrates that God's strategies often defy human logic, and our role is to follow His guidance with faith and obedience, even when it doesn't make sense to us.

SLIDE 4

In verses 19-22, as the three groups execute the plan, they blow their trumpets, break the jars, and hold up the torches, creating a spectacle of noise and light in the middle of the night. This sudden, unexpected attack throws the Midianite camp into chaos, causing them to turn on each other in confusion. The victory is won not through conventional warfare but through the demonstration of God's power made perfect in the apparent weakness of Gideon's small army.

SLIDE 5

In verses 23-25, following the chaotic defeat of the Midianites, the Israelites rally together and pursue the fleeing enemy. This victory, orchestrated by God through

Let's go to another scripture passage to test the Hidden Options theory. In the Old Testament, the options presented to humanity were often starkly black and white, involving strict adherence to laws and sacrifices or facing severe consequences, sometimes even death. This binary framework was rooted in the fundamental problem of sin and separation from God. Because of humanity's sin, people were required to follow a complex system of laws and rituals to maintain a relationship with God and avoid divine judgment. Sacrifices and strict obedience were necessary to atone for sins and seek God's favor, creating a clear line between obedience and disobedience, life and death.

Throughout the Old Testament, sin created a vast chasm between humanity and God. People were constantly reminded of their need for atonement and the limitations of the sacrificial system. This system, while necessary, was ultimately insufficient to fully restore the broken relationship between God and humanity. The recurring cycle of sin, sacrifice, and temporary forgiveness highlighted the need for a more permanent solution.

Enter Jesus. His declaration in John 14:6 is a revolutionary shift from the old paradigm. By proclaiming Himself as "the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus offers a hidden option that was not apparent under the old covenant. This new path is not about strict adherence to laws or performing sacrifices, but about a personal relationship with Him. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus bridges the gap caused by sin, offering a way to reconciliation with God that was previously unimaginable.

that guides our present life. This hidden option isn't merely an alternative path; it's the ultimate way to experience life in its fullest as intended by our Creator.

Discovering and embracing the hidden options that God lays out for us in life begins with the foundational wisdom from Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." This transformational renewal is not just a one-time event but an ongoing journey. It is through this continuous process of renewing our minds that we can discern and choose the hidden options that align with God's will, leading us to a life of greater depth, meaning, and fulfillment.

By moving beyond the binary choices of the Old Testament and embracing the hidden options revealed through Jesus, especially through His death on the cross, we find a path that offers not only salvation but also a transformative relationship with God. This path leads us to experience the fullness of life as God intended, characterized by peace, purpose, and eternal hope.

SLIDE 9

I said last week we would talk about how do we get to the Hidden Options. Malm's book "The Hidden Option" presents a transformative journey through five essential phases aimed at uncovering unconventional opportunities. It involves immersing ourselves daily in prayer, Scripture, and devotion, allowing God's Word to reshape our thinking and outlook on life. As we align our thoughts with His truth, we become increasingly attuned to His leading and receptive to the hidden paths He reveals.

we don't seek guidance in scripture and prayer persistently then it is more likely that we will follow our own paths and not God's.

SLIDE 13

Moreover, living out God's hidden options often requires stepping beyond conventional wisdom and expectations. His solutions may challenge our preconceived notions or societal norms, calling us to trust in His wisdom and act in faith. This faith-driven obedience is not always easy—it demands courage and perseverance—but it leads us closer to His intended purpose for our lives and brings about His transformative work in us.

As believers, our mission extends beyond personal transformation. We are called to be ambassadors of Christ's love and grace in a world that desperately needs His light. Our task is not to judge or condemn but to demonstrate compassion and point others to the Savior who offers true hope and redemption. By embodying His love and faithfully following His leading, we become catalysts for positive change and agents of reconciliation in our communities.

In navigating the complexities of life, characterized by polarization and uncertainty, we are invited to embody God's love and wisdom. Embracing His hidden options empowers us to respond to challenges with grace, to navigate conflicts with humility, and to offer hope in situations marked by despair. This journey of discovering and living out God's hidden options is not just a personal pursuit but a communal testimony to His faithfulness and transformative power.