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THE SILENT YEARS

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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THE SILENT YEARS

I. The Silent Years Of Jesus

- A. **Luke 2:22** – Dedicated
- B. **Luke 2:39-40** – He grew.
- C. **Luke 2:41-52** – He grew (became habitually obedient).
 - 1. Thirty years of preparation for a three-year ministry
 - 2. The **QUALITY** of the three years was so great that it is still affecting people worldwide.
- D. **Hebrews 5:8-9**
 - 1. He learned obedience.
 - 2. He gained experience.
 - 3. He became fully equipped.
 - 4. **Ephesians 4:11-12** – The five-fold ministry cannot properly equip the saints if they are not properly equipped themselves.
- E. **II Timothy 2:20-21** – Vessels PREPARED for any good work
 - 1. The separating, cleansing work that needs to be done in us is not easy or instant.
- F. **II Timothy 2:15** – Workmen approved (tested by trial)

G. Others who had silent years:

1. **Exodus 2:2** – **Moses** was **hidden** three months by his mother. He later spent forty years **hidden** on the backside of the desert.
 - a. Moses had a call, but nobody even knew where he was – except God – and He always knows.
2. **Joseph** spent thirteen years **hidden** in prison.
3. **John the Baptist** – **Luke 1:76-80** shows the call and the preparation. He was **hidden** in the desert until the day for his public ministry to begin.
4. **David** spent a lot of lonely nights tending sheep as a youth. He was anointed to be king and taken to Saul's house to play music for him. Saul became jealous and hated him. David had to **HIDE** as a criminal because Saul tried to kill him repeatedly.
5. **Saul/Paul** was **hidden** fourteen years and again three years.

H. My silent years (See **Isaiah 49:1-4**.)

1. I had a dream, a vision, and a call – but God had me **hidden** until His time.

**TOO MANY TODAY HAVE UNTIMELY
BIRTHS – PREMATURE BIRTHS**

2. **Psalm 31:15** – My times are in His hands.
3. **I Peter 5:6** – *Therefore humble yourselves . . . under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you.*

Preparation is more than coming to a seminar.

We must live it out at home – often alone!

II. God Sees And Cares – He Has His Eye On You.

A. Nobody even knows I am alive!

1. **Colossians 3:23-24** – God sees you and He rewards you.
2. Don't serve for applause or approval.
3. Don't quit because nobody seems to notice.

B. Do you ever think, "I am so tired of doing the right thing while nothing and nobody (including me) seems to be changing."

1. What about the years you pray and sometimes see very little; the years you give and don't see much change in your finances; the years you believe for breakthrough with your children, your ministry, physical health, or your marriage? You wonder,

"IS ANYBODY OUT THERE LISTENING TO ME?"

C. God is working (**Psalms 139:15**). We are formed in secret.

1. God forms things in secret and likes to surprise us.

D. Believe God is working!

(**I Thessalonians 2:13** and **Hebrews 13:20-21**)

1. He works in those who believe He is working.

E. **Galatians 6:9** – Be not weary in well doing: for in **due time** you will reap, if you faint not.

F. **Matthew 6:6** – God sees in secret and rewards you in the open.

1. I am reaping the rewards of many, silent, hidden years of prayer and study – seeking God while others were seeking other things.

III. Don't Curse Your Seed With Your Own Words.

- A. You are planting seed with your prayer, your faith, and your giving (not only financial giving, but all types of giving).
1. Serving in someone else's ministry is a type of giving. It does not replace financial giving, but we should realize:
EVERYTHING WE DO, WE ARE SOWING SEEDS!
- B. **Isaiah 55:10-11** – The words that come forth from our mouths water the seeds we have sown.
- C. Do not curse your own seed by saying things like:
1. This is not doing any good at all.
 2. I am wasting my time.
 3. Nothing is changing. I am not changing.
 4. Nobody cares anyway.
 5. Nobody even knows I am alive.
 6. Doors never open for me.
 7. Everybody but me gets a breakthrough.
- D. **Malachi 3:13-17** – Our conversations are recorded in His book of remembrance.

IV. When Will My Breakthrough Come? **SUDDENLY!!**

- A. **Acts 1:4** – The disciples were commanded to wait for the promise of the Father.
- B. **Acts 1:13-14** – They were devoted to steadfast prayer and waiting on God.

- C. **Acts 2:1-2** – SUDDENLY, the day of Pentecost came.
- D. **Acts 16:22-26** – Paul and Silas waited – SUDDENLY, at the “midnight hour,” their release came.
- E. **Acts 22:4-8** – Saul was ferociously killing Christians when SUDDENLY he was confronted by Jesus Himself on the Damascus road. Saul was on his way to look for Christians to imprison or murder.
 - 1. Your husband could be confronted by Jesus on his way to the bar.
 - 2. Your child could be confronted by Jesus on his way to a drug deal.
- F. **Mark 5:25-29** – A woman was sick for twelve years with an issue of blood when SUDDENLY she was restored.
- G. **Luke 13:11-13** – A woman with a spirit of infirmity was bent over and utterly unable to straighten up for eighteen years. Jesus passed by and said, “Woman, you are released from your infirmity!”
- H. **Exodus 33:18-23** – God told Moses He would HIDE him in the cleft of the rock and pass by. He could not allow him to see His face, but he could see His backside.
 - 1. You may not always see God coming, but you certainly know when He has been there.

V. Satan Has A Plan – God Has A Plan.

- A. **Acts 12:4-11** – Satan had a plan for Peter, but God had another plan.
- B. **Esther 5:11-14** – Haman (Satan) had a plan, but God had a plan.
- C. **Esther 6:1-10** – Mordecai relentlessly served God – even in great adversity, and it was recorded in the book of remembrance.

Do not give up in the silent years!

You’re not just collecting dust on a shelf!

