

Finding God's Plans for My Life

Week 1: God Knows What Lies Ahead! 9-20-15

Sermon series I want to talk about:

- **What is God's plan for me? Is there a 'Master-plan' for everyone?**
- **What about when life happens? Like:**
 - **When we get sick, what is God's plan?**
 - **In our dating / marriage relationships**
 - **What about our careers...does God have a plan for us?**
 - **Raising kids: how do we find God's plans for our families?**

Finding God's plans can relieve our anxiety

1. Fear of the unknown

- **Jesus said, Don't worry...about today, our immediate future**
- **Health diagnosis: Will it hurt? How will my life change? Will I still be loved?**
- **Laid off at work: What about groceries? My kid's need shoes...**
- **Basically, what will happen to me?!**

2. Handling un-planned events in life

- **What about going where you have Never been before!**
-

- Divorce: dating, relationships, remarriage, blending families together....
- Death of a spouse: finances, loneliness...Can I continue without him or her?

3. We can and should have confidence, instead of fear, in God's **Provision**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the LORD.”
 -Jeremiah 29:11-14, NLT

God's plan / God's Will for my life...same thing

- What does he want me to do?
How can know it?
- Do His plans change?
- He says, “I know the plans (plural) I have for you”....
- If God knows them then I should rest in this fact!

Knowing God's plans require my trust

Ever see a ‘Trust Fall’? You hope, you pray (!) that people will catch you as you fall backward into their arms...knowing God's plans is like that. There comes a time when we have to simply “fall”, let go, take the

plunge, sign up to serve, make the commitment.....are you with me?

So, finding God's Plans involves Trusting God:

1. Trust God to lead me

-He gives us dreams or possibilities (we begin to think we should do this or that)

Genesis 12:1-5

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

So Abram went *[with his family]* as the LORD had told him...and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

-Abraham, father of our faith, was guided step by step...if we take time to listen, God will lead **us** in the same way.

-Abraham talked with God along the way, and listened!

Here are the primary ways God speaks to us:

- Through the Bible
-Psalms 119:105 says, "Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path"
- Through Prayer God says in Jeremiah:

“In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the LORD.” Jer. 29:12-14

- Through **Circumstances** and
 - A job interview doesn't work out...something else could be instore for you
 - ‘Your’ plans change...God may be directing you towards His Plans
- Through **People**
 - The expression “It’s who you Know” that matters....God’s plans are revealed through conversations and relationships all the time

Finding God’s Plans involves Trusting God:

2. For His **Provision**

-He will send you a helper, the money needed to accomplish it, the ideas, etc.

3. With the **Unknown**

-True faith requires the unknown in our lives! Don't be scared by this but anticipate it!

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” -Heb. 11:6, NIV

Without faith we don't need God, His input, His salvation...

4. With my life

This is really the Starting point: knowing Him personally. Listen to what Jesus says,

“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses? Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

-Mt. 22:36-39, NLT

- Start with your relationship with God before the details
- We tend to start with us 1st: What makes me “happy”? This puts our priorities backwards
- Let your life be about pleasing God, not just yourself. Then you will be able to hear God’s voice

Start today asking God a basic question:

What is your plan for You and me?

- If you are a follower of Jesus, how is your relationship? Is God asking you to serve Him?
- If no, would you consider starting a faith journey today?