

The Big Picture – God Has Big Plans

January 7, 2018, Sermon by: Pastor Bryan Tomes

Intro:

- We're starting a new series – "The Big Picture" – changing our perspective about how we see things about God and the things of God. I pray we see ministries raised up by God – people who can see the BIG picture that God sees. We don't serve a small God, we serve a BIG God so stop thinking small and start thinking big! You got to start seeing the big picture. God has a plan for YOU! God wants to use you.
- In this series we want to challenge your perspective from the often small picture to the big picture
 - Small Steps in the Big Picture are Better than Big Steps in the Wrong Picture
 - If it's not part of God's plan, it's the wrong plan.
- Benjamin Franklin Said This: *"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."*
- Psalm 90:12 even teaches us to number our days – so that we may gain a heart of wisdom
- Preparing is good and planning is even better – but if your plan and your preparing doesn't line up with God's word or God's plan than you're missing the "Big Picture". Your big step in the small picture isn't as good as the small step in the big picture.
 - God Has Big Plans For Your Life

Text:

- **Jeremiah 29:11** - *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.*

We know this scripture, but do we believe it? God listens to us when we pray. We need to line up our plan with God's plan.

- **Proverbs 16:9** - *We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.*

You can't get mad at God at your plans that go wrong – he has good plans for you.

- **James 4:13-17** - *Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*

I. THE REALITIES OF GOD'S PLAN

A. God's Plan Is Different than Our Plan – we need to wait upon Him

- a. **Gideon** planned to march into battle with 32,000 soldiers, but God had a different plan!

Go in the strength of God - do what He tells you to do with whatever you have in your hand – He will multiply it – lay it before the Lord – come into covenant with God.

- i. God whittled it down to just 300 people so God would get the glory
- ii. When we make our plans we always try to stack the deck in our favor.
- iii. That is human nature!
- b. **David** was just a shepherd, but God had a different plan.
- c. **Job** was a wealthy man who just wanted to worship his God, love his family and enjoy his wealth, but God had a different plan.
- d. **Joseph and Mary** were just a young couple who wanted to get married and raise a family, but God had a different plan.
- e. **Saul of Tarsus** just wanted to carry out his assignment and destroy Christianity, but God had a different plan!

B. God's Plan Is A Declared Plan –

- a. **Gideon** – The spirit of the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites and visited Gideon in Judges 6 and called the Nation out for their Idolatry and sent Gideon to the rescue
 - i. “I am sending you!” - go in the strength that you have! – **Judges 6:14**
- b. **David** – The Lord sent Samuel to anoint Him as King – 1 Samuel 16
- c. **Joseph and Mary** – Both had visitations from the Lord
- d. **Saul** – Got knocked off his horse and blinded – Jesus spoke to him

God has a word for you and your life that has already been spoken over you. Every one of you are called into the ministry field to go and bring the gospel. It shall come to pass. God will speak to you exactly what to do.

C. God's Plan Is A Distinct Plan –

- a. **Gideon** – God told Gideon exactly what to do and how to do it
 - i. Make a sacrifice
 - ii. Pull down the Altar to Baal
 - iii. Take 300 Men

II. THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOD'S PLAN

- A. God's Plan Requires Surrender – give up your will for God's will; do it willfully
- B. God's Plan Requires Submission – your response TO God, done joyfully.
- C. God's Plan Requires Steadfastness - many start, but too many quit; stay the course – take the land you no matter how big the giants; God will do the impossible if we go and do what He has called us to do. Step out into your strength and God will do the rest.

III. THE RESULTS OF GOD'S PLAN

- A. God's Enemies To Be Destroyed –
 - i. **Gideon** – God confused the Midianites and caused them to panic and kill each other
 - ii. **David** – God took out Saul who was trying to kill him and gave him victory over Goliath
 - iii. **Mary & Joseph** - gave birth to Immanuel
- B. God's People To Be Victorious –
 - i. **Gideon** – was led to victory through his obedience to what the Lord told him to do
- C. God's Name To Be Honored -