

Let's Review The Plan (Part 5)

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

As we have been reviewing God's plan we have seen that we...

- Must be BORN AGAIN, through believing in Jesus and by confessing and repenting of our sins.
- Have been CALLED to FOLLOW JESUS by CHOOSING Him over everything else, allowing Him to CHANGE us inside and out, and COMMITTING to pick up our cross daily and follow Him.
- Should TRUST GOD'S PLAN & PROVISION, His TIMING, His POWER, and His COMPASSION
- Have been given a command LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Part 5 -FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

First let's look at this commission and then I want to discuss the different types of excuses (lies that we hear from the enemy) that keep us from obeying this command (believing and following His plan)

- **SOME DOUBTED**

It is not unusual for us to have doubts, questions, concerns about Jesus and following His plan. It is interesting that this description is included here; but then there is no separation of those who had doubts and those who did not before giving this directive.

Think of who He spoke to...

Thomas - the one who doubted that Jesus was alive

Peter - the one who denied him three times

James and John who wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy a Samaritan Village

We will see how the enemy wants to use these doubt to plant subtle and no so subtle lies in our hearts to keep us from following Jesus plan

I would submit to you that His plan is for all of us, in spite of our doubts, in spite of our fears, in spite of our questions

- **ALL AUTHORITY**

If we truly believe that Jesus has all authority then we will obey his command and His plan to use us in the fulfillment of His mission

*This indicates that this is an authoritative command, not a suggestion. It is the same idea as if an officer reminded a private of his rank before he gave the order. Because He has this **authority**, He can send whomever He wills to do whatever He pleases.*

From <https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/matthew/matthew-28.cfm?a=957018>

- **GO**

This is not a passive command. We can't accomplish it by doing nothing

- **MAKE DISCIPLES**

He didn't say you had to be a full time Missionary or pulpit preacher, or an evangelist. He just said make disciples (not converts)

Which begs the question. What is a disciple?

- ✓ **A Follower**

We have already learned that God's plan for us is to be a follow a Jesus... innate to that call is His plan for us to Make Disciples. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

- ✓ **A Learner**

Matthew 11:29

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

✓ An Imitator

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT)

11 1 And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)

5 Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

- **BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT**

While I am not suggesting that this verse does not directly apply to Water Baptism (an outward indication and identification of a person's inward decision to become a Christ follower); I do think that in light of the command to make disciples we can see an additional application

- a. to dip repeatedly, to **immerse**, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
 - i. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
 - 1. to overwhelm
- b. Immerse them in The Father, Immerse them in the Son, Immerse them in the Holy Spirit

- **TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU**

This isn't do as I say, but do as I am doing

- **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**

We cannot accomplish this in our own strength. That's why he told his disciple "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses..."

EXCUSES (Lies that the enemy wants us to believe)

He wasn't speaking to me

Exodus 4:13

13 But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

We generalize that statement or else we make it specific to the disciples or a small group of professional people we assume alone are called to fulfill Jesus Command

I'm not qualified

Moses - I don't speak well

All the disciples

Paul (Not worthy - Chief of all sinners)

We need to believe that if He calls us, He will qualify us. As many have said, He doesn't call the qualified, but qualifies the called

I'm not worthy

1 Timothy 1:12-16

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

I've still got problems.

I'm not saying you shouldn't deal with those problems but none of us have reached perfection. We should be striving for perfection otherwise we are simply being a hypocrite and need to get that worked out not do as I say. So start doing. We simultaneously must work at being a disciple and making disciples.

I don't know enough

Use what you do know and start learning some more. I want to remind you of the boy in John Chapter 6 who's 2 small fish and 2 small barley loaves were enough to feed 5000 men plus women and children.

I don't know what to say

say something

Exodus 4:10-12

10 Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

11 The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

Mark 13:10-11

10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

What if I mess up

You will... be humble, repent often, keep going

I don't have all the answers

I would be worried if you thought you did

2 Timothy 4:2

2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

1 Peter 3:15

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

I'm too Young, too old, too busy

The lie of the enemy to keep us inactive our entire Christian life

What if they won't listen to me

They didn't listen to him either

Ezekiel 3:17-19

17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 18 When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 19 But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself.

What if they get mad at me

Expect that some will

Acts 18:9-11

9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” 11 So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

Deuteronomy 31:6

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Romans 10:14-15

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”