

When Our Plans Are Not GOD's Plans, What Happens?
Proverbs 16:1-9

My brothers and sisters, today I want to talk to you about something that really touches my heart and I ask your prayers and the invitation of the HOLY SPIRIT in our midst. I also pray that growth comestor us all from this sermon.

My brothers and sisters, when you were growing up did you ever dream and plan out your life? Things like a big house, a nice job, a big and luxurious car, a very good family, and all of the things that dreams are made off. Yes those things where you would say, when I get older, I want to be, or I want to have.

Did you wonder if you would ever reach the goals that you set in your youth or are they a fleeing dream? Those dreams so vividly and visually etched into your brain. The dreams of your childhood, the dreams of your youth, the plans that you made so long ago, you do! Well, so do I!

Because you see, I am a planner by nature, by habit and by profession. I like to know where I am, where I'm going, what it looks like when I get there and just what will happen. You could think that, I'm someone who likes for everything to go his way, but I'm not. I'm not one who rebels against change either and I'M not the my way or the highway kind of guy, but it should all be in the boundary of sensible planning, my plans don't have to be the one selected, just be sensible and make complete sense.

But, now as you look back over your life, do you wonder how you have gotten to where you are today? Do you ever compare your life to the lives of your friends and neighbors?

My brothers and sisters, Are those plans you made your plans or GOD'S and your plans, because when our plans are in conflict with GOD'S plans for our lives, something happens to us?

Are you in conflict with GOD'S plans for your life? I thank GOD, fortunately for me and for those around me, that I 'm learning not to be extreme in my behavior anymore. Yes, I used to think that I could plan my whole life and live it my way, but my plans would always unravel and I would find myself wondering. Why? Because I wasn't hearing GOD'S plans for me.

IN other words; why are these things happening to me? Why do I need to make changes?

I need to adjust my plans to GOD'S plans? Am I listening to the answers coming from GOD about my life? Have I given in to GOD because He is truly in control?

My brothers and sisters, I want you to know that when our plans are not GOD'S plans for our lives these things happen and lead us down a road of destruction, as we try to make everything perfect for our lives which can be against GOD'S will ,because GOD wants us to depend upon him, to need him in our lives.

So, my brothers and sisters, as we turn to the text and in Proverbs 16:1 -9, two verses speak to the heart of the topic and they are in verse 1, The preparations of the heart belongs to man. But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord." And verse 9 which states, "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

Even though we are successful in human eyes and worldly standards, we are not successful according to GOD'S plan for us and as scripture states, "we may be successful for a season, but that soon fades away."

GOD will allow us to be successful for a while, but we won't be joyful and soon fail, because we are not in GOD'S will for our lives.

My brothers and sisters, I had not only planned my life, but had mapped it out in my heart, in my mind, in every muscle of my body, in my spirit, and even on my calendar.

Therefore, by the time I had graduated from college, I had my whole life laid out before my eyes. I was going to law school and then I was going to get that good job, have a good house, make good money, buy good clothes and a good car.

But let me tell you what really happened. I got married, got a job teaching and settled into family life, which was GOD'S plan for my life in spite of me. He controls our lives when we depend upon him for our daily bread. Amen. My self made plans went to dust, because GOD had other plans for my life.

I want you to know what happens when you plan and it does not work out as GOD has planned for your life. The reason our plans have not worked out exactly according to our calendars and PDA'S is because we have not included GOD at the beginning of the plan, or because we did not ask GOD what to do. To guide our steps, not enough prayer went into our decision.

Our plans have not worked out exactly according to our calendars and PDA'S, because the reason most of us fail is the constant adjustment to what we had thought or planned. For many of us, something happened that was out of our control. Am I right about it? So how have we reacted to it? I ask you, have we even reacted to it?

I need to ask another question right here too. How did GOD'S man Job react to such a situation? Because my brothers and sisters as we look at the life of Job, GOD teaches us a valuable lesson about life, about success and about our plans made and unmade, the things that Job did not plan, but which were a part of GOD'S plan for his life.

My brothers and sisters, as we read in Job beginning in chapter One, we see that Job did not plan on losing his family, his wealth or his livelihood. He did not plan on being raided, he did not plan on having fireballs falling from the sky killing his children and he did not plan on being inflicted with boils. He reacted to these situations as many of us probably would have and do everyday when the unexpected happens.

Do we complain, question or even curse? I don't mean use profanity either. You do not have to tell me the answer. Tell GOD the truth, He already knows the answer. He wants truth and honesty. We are reminded that "GOD is spirit; they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth."

So, the one thing I do know is what Job did and said, "I am disgusted with my life. Let me complain freely. I will speak in the bitterness of my soul." (Job 10:1) "Why do you reject me, the work of your own hands, while sending joy and prosperity to the wicked?" (Job 10:3) and, "Cursed be the day of my birth, and cursed be the night when I was conceived." (Job 3:3)

I ask you is this complaining, questioning and cursing? I even hear his wife who was in the midst of the suffering putting her little bit in too by saying, "Are you still trying to maintain your integrity, curse your GOD and die?" (Job2:9) Are we any better than Job or he than us? I think not.

My brothers and sisters, if there was anyone who felt he had control over his plans and future, it would have been Job. He was a man according to most human standards, who was very successful. He had a large family, more wealth beyond what any of us could imagine and good health too. Beyond that the Lord said, "He is the finest man in all the earth, a man with complete integrity. He fears GOD and will have nothing to do with evil." (1:8) In others words, he had it all!

I wonder out loud, would you like to be where he was? The favorite of GOD, no other man could

ask for more. So, why would GOD release him to be punished? Well when we look at Micah 4:12, there is an answer from the Lord and it is, "But they do not know the Lord's thoughts or understand his plan," was this the plan with Job and with us too. Is this what happens when our plans are not GOD'S plan for us? Are we gather like sheaves to the threshing floor waiting to be harvested? I don't think so, but this I do know, GOD made plans for our lives before the beginning of this world and He wants us to live out those plans.

AT one time or another in every ones life some rain must fall, because we all face disappointments and plans that do not meet our expectations. So if anyone thinks that they are the only person who has had plans go bad, just ask the people on American Idol and other so called reality shows.

Those programs where people have their dreams and hopes shattered, it only takes one to confirm that you are not alone .This is what happens when our plans are not GOD'S plans for our lives .The people who think that anyone can win against the odds, not putting GOD in the equation thus they fail.

As I close let me recapitulate some scriptural thoughts to you: I don't think that God is against lofty goals and aiming high, in fact too many people aim too low. So, I wonder out loud, what happens when our plans are GOD'S plans for our lives? Therefore, I need to tell you what happens when your plans and GOD'S plans are the same for your life.

Could the elder Abraham and Sarah have planned to conceive a baby in their older age, without it being GOD'S plan? I think not! This is what happens when GOD is in the plan.

Could the barren lady Hannah have planned on her womb being opened so she could conceive a baby? I think not! This is what happens when GOD is in the plan.

Could the widowed and childless Ruth have planned on remarrying a wealthy landowner and bearing a son? I think not! This is what happened when GOD is in the plan.

Could the virgin maiden Mary have planned and conceived such a HOLY one as JESUS CHRIST, without GOD being in the plan? I think not! This is what happens when GOD is in the plan.

So my brothers and sisters just how did Job keep the faith and how we can too? Well the answer is despite his outburst, frustration and exasperation, he never lost faith and he never denounced GOD. Because we hear him saying, "At least I can take comfort in this; despite the pain, I have not denied the words of the HOLY ONE." (Job 6:10)

We must understand the interesting thing about Job's case, which is that he never does gets answers to his questions, but he does get a renewed vision of GOD, and died a very blessed, old man ,who had lived a long and successful life. We can too when we let GOD lead and we follow. My brothers and sisters, Jesus, our Lord and Savior knew the plan of GOD for his life and he lived it to the end even though it would mean death and in the end to show obedience to GOD'S plan would bring a reward of love and life from a Father who truly loves us all.

We must remember that humans make elaborate plans, but GOD has the last word. We must remember that humans are satisfied with whatever looks good, but GOD probes for what is good. We must remember to put GOD in charge of our work, hen what we plan will work out. We must remember that GOD cannot stomach arrogance or pretense. Lastly, we must remember that we plan the way we want to live, but only GOD makes us able to live it.