Plans versus Paths

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INTRODUCTION

- I want to talk a little bit this morning about our plans versus our path.
- The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong. But time and chance happen to them all.

1 Don't Confuse Your Plans With Your Path

- It's necessary to make plans for our lives.
- God feeds the birds, but he doesn't drop the worms in their nest. They have to go and get them.
- But that's part of our plans. But that's not necessarily our path. Don't confuse your plans with your path.
- Instead, you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.

2 Without God, Just a Plan With No Path

Luke 12:16–21; Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 16:9

- This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.
- God does not enter the thought process for this plan.
- That's life without God. Just a plan. And no matter how hard you try, you cannot make it work out.
- In their hearts, humans plan their course. But the Lord establishes their steps.

3 Abraham: Trusting the Path Versus the Plan

Genesis 23:17–20

- They had this plan to help God out with Hagar, and that didn't work out at all.
- Abraham, who was not a poor individual by any means, doesn't have a place in this land to bury his wife.
- It took Abraham quite a while to come around to trusting the path that God had him on versus the plan that he was envisioning.

4 Moses: His Path Gets Pointed Out Again

Exodus 2:19

- Forty years. Herding sheep like a Bedouin. But his path gets pointed out to him again.
- So now go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.
- He is a hero of faith. His plans. Not so much.
- But what's the path? Are you on the path? No matter what your earthly plans pan out to be.

5 Jonah: God, I Don't Like This Plan

- He went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.
- I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love.
- And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh?
- Is what we have to trust, not our plan. His path. Are we on the path?

6 Jesus: Not My Will, but Yours Be Done

Luke 22:41–44; John 3:16

- The greatest example of anyone following God's plan and the path is our Savior Jesus Christ.
- Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me. Yet not my will, but yours be done.
- God died so that we could have an avenue. So that we would have a worthy sacrifice to get us back in a right relationship.
- He wants obedience. He wants us to be on the right path.
- And if you don't follow God, that doesn't mean your plans are going to work out any better.

THE CHALLENGE

Whatever your plans are, and however those things turn out. Stay on the path that God has laid out. There's salvation there.

MY NOTES