

Go For God World.

Sermon No 4

His Plan and His Purpose



By Pastor Laurence Edgar

www.GoForGodWorld.com

Bible Reading. Matthew Ch 11v4-6

4 Jesus answered and said to them, Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see, and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me. Amen

B&S those words were spoken by Jesus Christ Himself to the few followers of John The Baptist. John was in prison, he was a mighty man of God and bold as a Lion. He openly challenged King Herod, accusing him of adultery with Herodias who was Herod's brother's wife, she was his sister in-law.

Now because of John's outward challenge to Herod, he was arrested and put in a dungeon, a prison cell.

Alone and weak John began to have doubts regarding Jesus. His spirits were low and his health wasn't good, down and depressed he sent two of his disciples to go and ask Jesus, **Are You The One?** Or should we expect another?

B&S It would seem that the Lord put on a supernatural show or display of miracles for those two guys. They approached **Jesus** and delivered John's message to Him, and Jesus answered them and said. *Go and tell John the things what you see and hear. So what did they see and hear?* They heard rejoicing, excitement, cheering, dancing, tears, and laughter. WHY? Because they saw the Blind receive their sight, the Lame walk, the Lepers cleansed, the Deaf hear, the Dead are raised up. And they heard Jesus preaching to the poor. WOW.

What a day, what a sight to see. In signs and wonders Jesus was telling them, Yes **I AM THE ONE** Amen. There is no other. He demonstrated to them that He is the Messiah, the one and only one. And it was at this point Jesus said, *Blessed is he who is not offended in Me.* **B&S** John the Baptist had doubts. Do you ever have doubts? Yes you do, John was really down, an all time low and he questioned His Kingship. Do you ever question Him? Yes you do. Jesus knew all about John, He knew he was in prison. Now we all know that Jesus could have prevented John from prison, He could have performed a miracle and delivered John, but He didn't, He allowed John to be put in prison. He never prevented John from being beheaded RIGHT. Do you ever wonder why certain things happen to you? Why does the Lord allow that trial that wrecks you mentally? Why does bad things happen to good people. John the Baptist was a great man. Jesus said. *Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.* **WOW** What a statement to make about a man. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth. Yet all this happened to him and leading to his death by getting his head cut off. **WHY.** B&S we also ask the Lord why, why are we suffering such and such. You see B&S there is a sense in which we are in prison. Maybe you feel chained and caught in a trap, you are expecting the Lord to do something and set you free, but your getting tired waiting, your patience is running thin, you're at your all time low, and you are asking

when Lord, when? The truth B&S is the Lord knows all about you. He loves you and could deliver you, but He doesn't and you are wondering, why is He leaving me in this prison of despair and disappointment, sorrow or sickness, why does He do it?, why does He not deliver you?

B&S no one knows why. Many of the unsaved ask that same question and will ask you why does He not stop the wars, the starvation in Ethiopia, tragedies like the Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, Mud Slides, Earthquakes, Suicide Bombers.?

No one knows the answer to those questions The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. Possibly a Christian will answer, *Only every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord.*

So He didn't send those, only to be hit up the face with the question. Well why does He not stop them, He is God and God can do everything, why does He not do something about His Earth? And the only reasonable answer we can give is.

He is working in accordance with His own plan and purpose.

And you might quote Romans 8v28 **And we know that ALL things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.** Really B&S The world will wax worse, but He is perfecting that which concerns You.

He is making His own better, not worse. Psalm 138v8 says.

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me: Your mercy O Lord endures for ever, do not forsake the works of Your hands.

B&S the Lord knows what He is doing, He knows His works. We may often ask why and not understand why, but it will all be for our good He is God Almighty.

As His children we must realise He is doing something wonderful. Today we don't know or understand, but what about the future, what about later on? Remember when Jesus began to wash the disciples feet John Ch13v5.

When He came to wash Peters feet, Peter asked Him, Lord why do You wash my feet? The Lord answered *What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this. Amen*

We have to trust Him B&S we have to realize that He is our friend, a friend that wont harm you. He is your Shepherd, a shepherd feeds and looks after His sheep, He is your Saviour, He gave up His life to save you, and He is your Lord and Lord over everything, He owns you, you are His property.

He has your life in His hands, your name is written on the Palm of His Hands, working out His plan and purpose for you.

He never makes mistakes and He never will make a mistake in His dealings with you or with any of His people.

And I know it is sometimes hard, we find it difficult when things go wrong, when life turns Pear shape. Many of us are inclined to think, does God really love and care for me?

The Lords people can become offended, discouraged, filled with remorse, doubts, sadness and fear. The Lord not only chastises His children, but He does allow them to suffer hardships as well. John was put in prison and got beheaded.

James and Stephen were martyred, thousands died in the Coliseums of Rome, many burnt at the stake, while others were ripped apart or eaten alive by Lions and Bears

I think a lot about Job. What a rough time he had, such despair he experienced. Did God really love and care for Job?

Did He know all about Job? Yes He knew. B&S When trials and troubles come our way it is natural to ask God why, you may begin to wonder and think does He really care?

The disciples asked Jesus that question Mark Ch 4v35.

I am sure you know the story well. Jesus had said Let us cross over to the other side. They entered a boat, experienced fishermen while crossing the sea of Tiberius a strong wind came upon them a storm, the boat was being battered by the waves and it looked as if the boat was going to sink.

Through all this Jesus was fast asleep on a pillow, they were afraid and panicked they woke Him and said to Him.

Teacher do You not care that we are perishing?

B&S we have all panicked and reacted in that way one time or another. When trouble comes, our faith can be weak and falter, we can become offended or as that word means stumbled.

There are some people who seem to be pillars with strong faith no matter what happens or whatever they face, they never seem to doubt or stumble. The 3 Hebrew Children come to my mind, they faced king Nebuchadnezzar fully clothed and with respect made it know to the king that they would never bow to worship his idol, even if it meant being burnt alive in the furnaces. They stood strong, never stumbled and never bowed down. It resulted in them being tossed into the fire and you know what happened. God protected them in the fire.

The Apostil Paul was strong and never seemed to stumble
Daniel a wonderful man of God never seemed to stumble
And my old friend Job never doubted or stumbled, he said in
Ch 19v25-26 *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall
stand at last on the Earth 26 and after my skin is destroyed, this
I know, that my flesh shall see God. Amen.* And here is what he
said in Ch 23v10 *But He knows the way that I take, When He
has tested me, I shall come forth as Gold. Amen*

And again in Ch 13v15 *Though He slay me yet will I trust Him.*

B&S we may not have a reason for our suffering, and I
understand there are terrible heart-breaking ones, ones that
may not involve you, but you hear about someone else's
tragedy and it saddens you right to the pit of your stomach.
A young Christian lad who just finished Bible College and on
fire for God is excited to get out and preach the Word,
and suddenly dies, and he was his parents only child. **Wow**
How do we explain that. ? Words of comfort fail us.

Tears may flow from our eyes, our heart breaks and can cry out
Yet the Lord and His grace is sufficient for a breaking heart.

If it wasn't for God's grace could any of us go on?

He wouldn't remove Paul's thorn in the flesh, He preferred Paul
to keep it. Was Paul offended or stumbled? He would have
been disappointed, but never stumbled. You see B&S Trials and
testing's can turn into blessings. Bad things do happen to good
people why? Because it is all in His plans and Purpose.

Job going through his hardship said. In Ch 22v21

Acquaint yourself with Him and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. Amen and Isaiah could say in Ch26v3
You will keep him in perfect peace who's mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You, Trust in the Lord forever. Amen

B&S I know and understand that this is easy for someone to preach. The reality of life is we don't like trials. Maybe if we knew they were trials sent from God we could live with them a lot easier, but we don't. We must trust the Lord through all our hardships and difficult situations. We don't have a choice, there isn't any other way. If we say we love the Lord and cannot understand why certain things are happening to us, we must trust Him. King David had some very bad experiences, and he wrote in Psalm 31v14-15 But as for me, I trust in You O Lord I say. You are my God 15 My times are in Your hand.

B&S Is it God's will we want ? Is it, Thy will be done on earth? If we are honest with ourselves, we have to ask: Is it possible that what we're really after is not God's will at all, but only His good gifts? Do we consider that God's calling on our lives may, in fact, lead us down a path that looks a lot like Paul's?

What if we yield all of our life to God, Lord I will go wherever you send me, and you end up in some third-world country, far away from family and friends and fast food, no hot water, to live in a hut and eat bugs and preach the Gospel to people completely unlike you? An alien and foreigner in their land. What if our worst fears are true, and giving our life over to Jesus means that it turns out nothing like our dreams? What if we're unhappy, sad, miserable?

Without a vision the people perish. We all like to think big and have a good vision, doing a good work for God.

What if God's plans don't line up with our dreams?

And sometimes the path He leads me down is a difficult one.

Is God Bigger Than Our Mistakes

What about those times when we feel we've let God down?

We may feel we've wandered off the path, maybe through our own sin or the sin of someone close to us. Think of Joseph, rotting away in prison month after month, year after year.

His brothers' sin had brought him to this lowly place.

He must have been tempted to believe he was far off the path God had laid out for him. Or once again, consider Paul, a man who persecuted the church and who had stood by watching as Stephen was murdered. Surely, if anyone's sin disqualified him from God's perfect plan, it was his. God is bigger than all that.

He is bigger than our choices, He bigger than the sins we commit, and He is bigger than the sins committed against us.

Joseph rose to become the No.2 official in all of Egypt to Pharaoh and God used him to save countless families, including his own. And Paul? God sent him all over the known world of his day, preaching the Gospel and planting churches.

As the self-proclaimed "Chief of sinners yet God gave him an understanding of mercy and grace that few can understand, but all can know through the pages of his writings.

He loved God and became an ambassador to Christ. **WHY?**

Because God was working out His Plan and Purpose

Though we may not always see, in this life, how God works all things for good, we can know that He is, even in our failures and our disappointments. B&S. God is good Amen

I believe that God has a perfect plan for my life, and I believe He has a different, but no less perfect, plan for yours as well.

God knows the end from the beginning, and He is sovereign over all creation. It is His Plans and Purpose He created, provides for and directs every one of our paths. Jeremiah 29:11. *For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and a future and a hope. Amen* B&S He has not left us to find the path on our own, if only we follow the clues and avoid the traps. The only way to walk God's path is to walk it with Him. AMEN End