



Trusting the Truth of God's Plan

Luke 7: 18-23

- In this passage, Jesus' ministry was starting to grow a lot. There were thoughts about what to expect with Jesus' ministry and whether He was actually the One that would come and save the Israelites.
- The expectation was for many that the Messiah would come and deliver Israel from the political occupation of the Romans.
- John the Baptist was in prison at this point. Things started to get desperate because pressure against Jewish groups like this one were intensifying. They were ready to see opposition rise up against the Romans. Eventually, there was a rebellion a few decades after Jesus.

- As with many times from our human perspective, they were too short-sighted in their understanding of Jesus' ministry.
 - o How often are we consumed with the immediate issues that are right in front of us, and as a result we miss the greater picture of things. And we especially miss what God may be doing in the grand scheme of things.
 - o It may not be anything like possible oppression from the government like John and others were facing, but we still let it consume our thoughts and our actions.
- God is at work every day in the minute details of life, but He is also at work throughout all of human history, weaving together His plan from one millennia to another.
- Our plans are based on our perspective. Our perspective is shaped by what we believe to be true. Plans and truth go hand in hand.

Main Point: Trusting the plan of God is critical to our pursuit of the truth.

- When I am looking ahead, I can't always see what God is doing. A lot of times, things don't go the way I imagine they would. But when I look behind, I can see clearly how God has been at work. And His plan is good and beneficial for us.
- There seems to be a sense of desperation in John's question he sent to Jesus. Are you the one we have been waiting for? Or should we expect someone else?

I. Our plans

- a. It was clear what John and others wanted to see happen. Even despite all the evidence of Jesus at work, it seems that He was not working in ways that they wanted or expected Him to.

- b. We plan for the future – looking at finances, events on our calendar, aspirations at work, dreams for our children or grandchildren. Things don't always go according to plan. Especially if you're trying to plan around the weather in Georgia.
- c. Some of the Jewish people had their idea of that they thought should happen with Jesus' ministry. But that wasn't the plan of God. God was doing something greater than they could not see coming.
- d. I try to stay flexible with things in life, but the truth is that I really don't like to change plans.
- e. I like to make a plan and stick with it. I had been looking at the weather this weekend like we did last weekend when we ended up cancelling. While everyone else was hoping for snow, I was praying for God to cast it as far as the East is from the West. Woke up on the wrong side of the bed when Sara told me it was snowing.
- f. Our goal in life shouldn't be to make plans in line with our wishes, aspirations, and preferences. Our goal in life should be to make plans that are consistent with the plan of God. To align our plans with His plans.

II. God's plans

- a. It was clear that Jesus was at work in His ministry, even if it wasn't the way John the Baptist and others imagined.
- b. Here's what I know – the plan of God is always better than anything I could come up with.

c. Why can we not go wrong with trusting in God's plan? God's plan is rooted in the truth. Because God is truth. Our plans are based on our perception of reality that may or may not be true. It's shortsighted and wrong oftentimes.

i. Corrie ten Boom

1. Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

ii. C.S. Lewis

1. Relying on God has to be begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done.

d. *When I make a plan or write something on my calendar – it has to always be written in pencil. When God makes a plan – it's written in stone.*

e. Not only is the permanence of God's plan greater than our plans, His focus and goal is often different than ours.

f. What was God's plan in sending Jesus?

i. Luke 19:10 — Jesus declares His mission explicitly: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

ii. Matthew 20:28 (paralleled in Mark 10:45) — "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

iii. 1 Timothy 1:15 — Paul summarizes the core gospel truth: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst."

iv. John 18:37 — In His trial before Pilate, Jesus states: "...For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

v. Luke 4:18-19 (quoting Isaiah 61:1-2) — Jesus announces His mission at the start of His ministry: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

g. Jesus’ mission was so much greater than having a political agenda against the Romans. He knew the Roman Empire would come and go, but His Kingdom would last forever.

III. Our response

- a. In VERSE 29 – there are several people who accept God’s way of righteousness as Jesus used this as a teaching opportunity. There were others who rejected it, and that was clear as well.
- b. The question is the same for us today. Are we going to accept Jesus as He has revealed Himself to us? Not how we want to imagine Him or His mission. But as He actually is. Are we going to accept the plan of God that has been shown to us in His Word?
- c. Sometimes the plan of God is taking us down the hard and beaten path. With ruts and ridges and potholes along the way. Twists and turns. The question is – are we going to trust in God’s way no matter what?

IV. God's evidence of truth

- a. I love how Jesus responds when He is asked in this passage if He really is the Messiah.

b. He doesn't say yes or no. He just says – Look at what I have done and what I am doing now.

c. Actions speak louder than words. The plan of God is self-evident. Read His Word.

Pray. Trust that He knows what He's doing.