

# Let's Review The Plan (Part 2)

Sunday, January 5, 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.”

It was given during a time of exile

It was given during a time of waiting

It was given to assure them God would fulfill His promise to return them to Israel

It was given to them to remind them that God had a plan for them

We too are in a time of exile... this world is not our home

We too are in a time of waiting... waiting for Jesus to return

We too need the assurance that God will fulfill His promise to take us to our real home

We too need to know that in the meantime, God has a plan for us

Last week we said that God's plan is for us to FOLLOW Jesus by...

**Responding to His CALL to walk in relationship with Him**

**Making CHOICES that say yes to God even though that means saying no to other things**

**Allowing the CHANGES that following Him will bring about in our...**

- Person (Identity)
- Perspective
- Passions
- Plans
- Priorities
- Pace

**COMMITTING to deny ourselves, pick up our cross daily and follow Him**

Today we want to look at another essential part of God's plan for us

## TRUST GOD

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

I want to direct your attention to four familiar stories from Gods Word that teach us five important areas in which we need to trust God

### Story # 1 - A Prophet, some birds, and a little bit of food

1 Kings 17:1-16 NIV

“Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.” Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.” So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to him: “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” “As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” Elijah said to her, “Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’” She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.”

Trust His Provision and Plan

Even when it comes in unimaginable ways and by unconventional means

Matthew 6:25-33 NIV

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Story # 2 - Where are You, Lord?

John 11:1-3, 6-7, 17-21, 32, 38-44 NIV

“Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead

man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.””

## Trust His Timing

Both Martha and Mary were struggling to trust God because His timing was different than theirs

God is never late. He is always on time.... Just not your time.

Trust His Plan, trust his provision and trust His timing. Maybe you've given up hope that it is too late, maybe there are huge things blocking the way to the answers you want, maybe your circumstances stink; trust Him. I promise He has not forgotten your need.

## Story # 3 - Too little, too late

Mark 5:21-42 NIV

“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” While

Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.”

## Trust His Power

Some of you may be discouraged and ready to give up because what you were trusting God for is impossible by human standards or worse yet, it has died. TRUST HIS POWER.

He will either raise what is dead or He will replace it with something new and better.

Obviously, I am not talking about God raising the people that we love from the dead. He has already given us that promise. But sometimes what we desire, long for, hope for, or even need is, for all practical purposes, dead. When we stay at the graveside grieving what we have lost, we fail to see that God's power extends beyond death and has already given us new life.

Stop listening to the people who say it's over, quit being swayed by the doubters, the mourners, the naysayers... Trust in Jesus power to do the impossible. That's why, I believe he only took the three disciples, that's why, I believe he put everyone else out of the house.

## Story # 4 - A Boat, A Disciple and lots of water

Matthew 14:22-33 NIV

“Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.””

## Trust His Compassion

Even when you are doing your best to trust Him with all your heart ,storms will come along in such a way as to cause fear to rise up and for a moment you begin to doubt His provision, plan, timing and power. When we feel it difficult to trust Him for anything else trust His Compassion.

*Lord Save me*

*IMMEDIATELY Jesus reached out his hand and caught him*

And that’s what He will do for us too. Hold on to us, strengthen us, lift us up and stabilize us, get us back in the boat

WHY? Because He loves us and will always show compassion to us

That’s who He is... That’s what He does... TRUST HIM!

\*One final note... We not only Trust him FOR these things... We trust Him BECAUSE of these things