

Coach House Church

BEACONS

HIS WILL NOT MINE

10TH NOVEMBER 2020

You know how it is when someone tells you a story and you can see it in your head, or when you read a good book, and your brain fills in the gaps and your imagination colours it in bringing it to life. Isn't that a great ability to have ? Some people are able to do this more than others.

Also, when we find ourselves in new situations, if we had time to think about them, we create expectations. We imagine the situation in the eye of our mind and consider possibilities and options; what could or should happen.

That's exactly what happened to the people of Israel. They were told from generation to generation that Messiah would come to save them. They knew he was going to be born in Bethlehem and that he would be called a Nazarene ; they also knew that he would come from king David's blood line and that he would put everything right. To what they knew, their expectations and imagination filled in the gaps: he had to be from a noble family, a powerful warrior with a vast army that would defeat all their physical enemy and make Israel great again; like it was during the reign of king David.

However, when it actually happened and The Messiah did come, very few people recognised him, and I dare say even fewer understood what he had come to do as they were looking elsewhere.

The shepherds in the fields were told that The Messiah was born and set down to sleep in a manger . The wise men from the East recognised his star in the sky and went to look for the new born king in royal palace. However, the king of kings was not found in a cushy, comfortable place but in a basic shelter for animals . All these people knew that something out of the ordinary had happened, that

something has changed but they were not exactly sure what or how. Not to worry though, the Lord had a plan all along even if it was misunderstood by people.

This misconception was carried on later in Jesus' life. People close to him, even his disciples thought he would overturn the Roman authorities and set himself king over the Jewish people. Nevertheless, this was far from what God the Father had in mind. The people were thinking of their immediate predicament - they did not like being subjected to Roman rule. But The Father had eternity in mind and He was thinking of the whole of mankind and not just the Jews.

In order to bring about salvation, Jesus had to submit himself completely to the Father's will, which he did, even though what he had to do was extremely hard; throughout he trusted the Father and understood that if he did not die, there would be no salvation for mankind.

People often think that they understand exactly what God plans to do, nevertheless, that is rarely the case. The Lord turned the world's wisdom on its head when he sent his son to die to restore everyone to himself; The enemy thought he won when Jesus was dying on the cross; And the fact that He entrusted his salvation message to simple and uneducated people, which He empowered and blessed with understanding to be able to do the task, added again to the miraculous way in which He chose to work. He choose to work like that just to prove that He had nothing to prove, that He did not have to give account to anybody; He is in absolute control over worldly events.

In our individual lives, we often think that we know what has to happen: what we are going to study and do for a job, who we would marry and where we would live. From my personal experience I can tell you that if you submit all these worldly things to God, He will surprise you in a very good way. When I was a teen and started to think what I would like to do for a job, I thought to myself that I can be whatever but not a teacher... guess what what I do for a job ? God does have a sense of humour ! But he's not left me to do this in my own strength; He knew exactly what gifts and qualities I needed do it and when I thought to myself -anything but teaching , I had no idea of what my gifts and strengths were. I can tell you that I love working with young people.

The Lord said through the prophet Isaiah:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

This verse gives us a little insight in the way God thinks and works - if you think you have sussed God's plan out, be prepared to be proved wrong . Don't try to guess or even help God. Abraham tried to help God along and it brought about a family feud.

God has good plans for his children. We know this from His Word

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us :

"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."

I would like to encourage you to be open to God's plan for you; to be unafraid of the insecurity of the world we live in and trust that the Lord has your best interest at hart. Prepare for the day knowing that this second lockdown and wave of infections has not taken the Lord by surprise. Carry on doing what you can to keep going and help those you see struggling around you however best you can, knowing that this is only a season. What's more, whatever we have to face has faced the Lord first; nothing escapes his attention. Whatever expectations you have from this life if it does not work out, there is a reason for it. The Lord might be protecting you from something down the road or, He might want you to learn something that only a valley could teach you.

If you do want to know which way to go, how to conduct yourself, or what the Lords plans are in regards to you, pray. The Lord listens and is happy to share his plans with us and guide us along. He is not a mute god that does not communicate with his people, he is a verbal and personable God, the God that wants a relationship with each and every one of his children.

At the end of this beacon let me read this verse again :

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us :

"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."

Amen



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