

SERMON NOTES:

Recalculating | Part 4: Unseen Shores

What happens when what we believed we surely would experience in life is met with something – well less. Less than what we planned for. Less than what we believed for. Less than we had faith in God to do or deliver for us?

The problem comes when we stake our faith on our ideas about what those good plans and outcomes look like rather than on the one who ultimately and is the only one who can bring them to pass.

God's Good Plans ≠ Our Good Plans

God is under no obligation to bring our preconceived outcomes to fruition.

God's Good Plans > The Best Plans We Can Conceive.

Preconceived conclusions to God's plan can engender doubt if a believer experiences a change in their predetermined, though erroneous, assumptions.

Matthew 11:1-6 (NLT)

¹ When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.

² John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³“Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

⁴ Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— ⁵the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.” ⁶ And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.”

What John did Right:

- **John took his hurt and confusion right to Jesus.**
- **John trusted in Jesus' reputation.**
- **John stayed faithful until the very end.**

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NLT)

¹³ All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. ¹⁴ Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. ¹⁵ If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. ¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:32-40 (NLT)

³² How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. ³³ By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their loved ones back again from death.

But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. ³⁶ Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. ³⁷ Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. ³⁸ They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. ⁴⁰ For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

Our faith should not dependent upon what God will deliver for us, but in what he has already delivered.

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.