

November 2023 Sermon Series

Plan B

Giving Thanks Even When God Doesn't Show Up
the Way You Thought He Would

Plan B

Waiting on God

November 26, 2023

**16 Rejoice always,
17 pray continually,
18 give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV**

Plan B

**God has a perspective on life we don't
have and God is working in your situation
right now, even if you can't see it.**

Plan B

**God can take the
worst things and turn them into
something good.**

Plan B

**Hoping for something will
almost always disappoint.**

**Hoping in God will always move towards
something good, even if we can't see it.**

Plan B

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a]
whenever you face trials of many kinds,
3 because you know that the testing of your faith
produces perseverance.

4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be
mature and complete, not lacking anything.

(James 1:2-4, NIV)

Plan B

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (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.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Plan B

(John 11:1-5, NIV)

**I'm afraid many times we passionately
love Jesus, but we really don't
want to be like Him**

Plan B

**We love the idea of following Jesus
until it disrupts our plans and dreams.**

Plan B

and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, **Plan B** for they have no light.”

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” 12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

(John 11:7-15, NIV)

Plan B

God will absolutely allow suffering, pain, and crisis in order to detach hope from other things and attach it to Himself.

He will use the suffering of Plan B to strengthen our faith.

Plan B

He's not doing something to you.

But he might be
doing something through you.

Plan B

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles[a] from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Plan B (John 11:17-21, NIV)

The question isn't can you trust God?

Of course you can trust God.

The question is can you wait?

Plan B

**Hope does not only come from believing in
God's power, but also from
accepting and trusting His timing.**

Plan B

God is really interested
in who we can become.

Plan B

**Spiritual transformation
doesn't take place on Sunday.**

Plan B

**“But I know that even now God will give
you whatever you ask.”**

(John 11:22, NIV)

Plan B

**Trust that is the key
to spiritual transformation.**

Plan B

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 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.” 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Plan B (John 11:43-45, NIV)

When life isn't turning out the way you would hoped, when it's Saturday and you're waiting and longing, when you feel alone and abandoned, God wants you to find your hope in Him.

Plan B

**Waiting does not always lead to the
outcome we hope for.**

Plan B

**You are allowing your hope to grow,
and if you can't be still and wait and hope,
even when you have no reason to hope,
you can't become the person
God created you to be.**

Plan B

Your waiting does have a purpose.

Plan B

**Wait for the Lord; be strong
and take heart and wait for the Lord.
(Psalm 27:14, NIV)**

Plan B

**Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from Him.**

**6 Truly He is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.**

(Psalm 62:5-6, NIV)

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