

SERMON SLIDES

Title: How to be good at... PLANNING
(or How To See Planning As A Statement Of Faith)

Bible Reading

Prov 12:5 (ESV)

The thoughts [plans] of the righteous are just;
the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

Prov 14:22

Do they not go astray who devise [plan] evil?
Those who devise [plan] good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.

Prov 15:22

Without counsel plans fail,
but with many advisers they succeed.

Prov 16:1-4

The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.
All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,
but the Lord weighs the spirit.
Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.
The Lord has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Prov 16:9

The heart of man plans his way,
but the Lord establishes his steps.

Prov 19:21

Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Prov 20:18

Plans are established by counsel;
by wise guidance wage war.

Prov 20:24

A man's steps are from the Lord;
how then can man understand his way?

Prov 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Prov 21:30

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel [plan]
can avail against the Lord.

Slide 1

Today's Planned Outcome: We will understand that for God, a plan is a statement of fact, but for humans, a plan is a statement of faith.

What are the Problems with Planning?
What Promises aid our Planning?
What Process can we use in Planning?

Slide 2

What Are The Problems With Planning?

"If you fail to plan, you're planning to fail" (attributed to Ben Franklin)
"Be Prepared" (Boy Scout Motto)
Misplaced expectations

Slide 3

Two Misconceptions About Planning:

- 1) We have some degree of control (free will and all that)
- 2) We can miss God's will (Kevin DeYoung's Just Do Something: How to Make A Decision Without Dreams, Visions, Fleeces, Impressions, Open Doors, Random Bible Verses, Casting Lots, Liver Shivers, Writing In The Sky, Etc.)

Slide 4

Five Misconceptions About God's Will...

- 1) There is only one perfect will of God
- 2) God has hidden it like an Easter egg
- 3) It's up to us to find it and do it
- 4) We probably won't like it ("it's the last thing we'd want to do")
- 5) We can miss it, or screw it up

Slide 5

"God never reveals His will to those who want to know it, but will always reveal it to those who will do it."

Slide 6

What Promises Aid Our Planning?

Isaiah 41:10, 13

Isaiah 43:1-7

Matthew 28:20b (John 14:18a)

Slide 7

What Process Can We Use In Our Planning?

Slide 8

"By all means, make your list of to-dos for the day. By all means, get as good at that as you can get. Prioritize the list. Get first things first. Make your plan. Then walk in the peace and freedom that, when it shatters on the rocks of reality, which it will most days, remember, you're not being measured by God by how much you get done. You're being measured by whether you trust the goodness and the wisdom and the sovereignty of God to work this new mess of inefficiency for his glory and the good of everyone involved, even when you can't see how."

J. Piper

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from today's message?
2. What are some of the problems people generally have with planning?
3. Of the two misconceptions about planning--1) we think we have some control over the future, 2) we think we can miss God's will--which one resonates with you?
4. Which one of the five misconceptions about God's will (listed below) have you thought about or wrestled with?
 - 1) There is only one perfect will of God
 - 2) God has hidden His will like an Easter egg
 - 3) It's up to us to find and do it
 - 4) We probably won't like it (at least not at first)
 - 5) We can miss it, or screw it up

5. What is the single most important factor we should keep in mind when making plans? (comes from the Promises point) - see Isaiah 41:10, 13; Isaiah 43:1-7; Matthew 28:20b (last sentence of Matthew); Psalm 73:28 (may not have been mentioned)

6. Discuss the process for planning that was given. Was it what you expected it to be? Why or why not?

With prayer as the foundation...

1) Relax

2) Reorient thinking (away from cultural pressures and toward relationship with God)

3) Orient life with Jesus at the CENTER, not first (you knew I'd say it at some point!)

4) Obey what is known (how can we be trusted with what's unknown if we haven't been faithful to do what is known?)

5) Make plans, but hold them loosely

7. What was missing in the above list? (everything you'd read in the books about being organized and planning well... SWOT analysis, Pro-Con List, Facebook crowdsourcing)

8. Discuss the statement: For God, a plan is a statement of fact, but for humans, a plan is a statement of faith. What do you think? How will that perspective help as you face hard decisions or make plans?