

## RCMI L-Path Teaching

April 11, 2021

English

Sunday Theme: **Don't Miss Out**

Big Idea: **This series focuses on stories from the OT that shows that God's plan is always better than ours.**

Title: **DON'T MISS OUT GOD'S PLAN**

Text: **1 Samuel 8:1–22 (CEV)**

### INTRODUCTION

- God has plans. God is the great Planner (with the capital P). God is the ultimate Planner.
- Isaiah 46:11 – “What I have planned, that I will do.”
- We only need to structure our plan with God's plan.
- We need to pattern and adjust our plan with God's plan.

### LESSON

#### I. GOD'S PLAN IS FOR OUR GOOD (vv. 1-3)

<sup>1-2</sup> Samuel had two sons. The older one was Joel, and the younger one was Abijah. When Samuel was getting old, he let them be leaders at Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> But they were not like their father. They were dishonest and accepted bribes to give unfair decisions. <sup>4</sup> So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

- The bible says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you"
- He has a plan for your life, His plans are good as God is a good God. His plans are for our good.
- God's plan for you is a good plan. Ultimately, it is good because God is good.
- God's plan is for the good of “those who love Him and are called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).
- God's children must therefore live by faith, trusting in God's promises even when present circumstances seem to contradict them.
- God's plan suggests that we should plan. Jesus never discouraged plans.
- In fact, He exposed the foolishness of poor planning, (Luke 14:28).
- Planning is not condemned in Scripture; it is commended.

#### II. GOD'S PLAN IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING (vv. 6-9)

<sup>6</sup> But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. <sup>8</sup> As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

- God's plan is comprehensive. God's plan is all-inclusive. It covers everything about your life.
- Because God's plan is based on His omniscience. God is an all-knowing God.
- His plan covers everything, our past, present, and future is taken into account.
- The goal of God's plan is to bring glory to Himself. “I will not give My glory to another.” (Isaiah 48:11).

#### III. GOD'S PLAN SHOULD SHAPE OUR PLANS (v v. 19-22)

<sup>19-20</sup> The people would not listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want to be like other nations. We want a king to rule us and lead us in battle.” <sup>21</sup> Samuel listened to them and then told the Lord exactly what they had said. <sup>22</sup> “Do what they want,” the Lord answered. “Give them a king.”

- Plan your life in such a way it will give glory to God. Our plans should bring glory to God.
- “People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord's plan [purpose; advice] will happen [succeed].  
Prov. 19:21
- In the Bible “God's plan” is also called “God's will”

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- There are four kinds of God's will
  - The purposed will of God (God's eternal decree, will come to pass no matter what)
  - The preferential will of God (God's desire, ex.: God desires all men to be saved, 1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9)
  - The prescriptive will of God (God's standards)
  - The permissive will of God (God's overriding will, man's will, usually fleshly-inclined)
- Israel is asking for a king, verse 20 says, "We want a king who will fight our battles."
- They seem don't understand the plan of God. God is their true King.
- God has been there with them leading them and fighting their battles.
- 2Chronicles 20:15, "The Lord says this to you: 'Don't be afraid or worry about this large army, because the battle is not your battle. It is God's battle!"

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION IN LPATH MEETINGS:

**The important lesson for us to learn is that we should plan for the future.**

Question No. 1: Why does it matter to have plans?

Answers:

- God's Word frequently speaks of God's plan, will, counsel, or purpose. It is biblical, it is expected of us.
- Plans are necessary in order to pursue and fulfill our purpose in life.
- Plans give structure and order to life to our pursuit of that purpose. God is a God of order and purpose.
- If there is no plan, then there is no purpose and no goal
- If we don't plan, we are saying God has no purpose, and if God has no purpose for us, we are lost in life.
- If one sees no purpose for life, then he would conclude there is no plan or Planner (God).

Question No. 2. If God has plan for us and is sure to happen, then why do we need to plan or shape our plan with God's plan?

Answers:

- Personal planning enables us to know and relate to the Planner more intimately (Genesis 18:17-19; John 15:15).
- Planning informs and inspires our prayers (Daniel 9).
- It puts before us a destiny so glorious that we are encouraged to endure the groanings of this life, and indeed, to endure suffering and rejection for the sake of Christ (Romans 8:18-25; Hebrews 11:24-26).
- Planning assures us that God's ends are often accomplished through means which seem contradictory.
- Shaping our plans with God's reminds us that what we see in the present is often deceptive and quickly passes away while the kingdom of God is eternal (Psalm 73:17-28).
- Shaping our plans with God's plan suggests that our plans should be tentative, subject to divine veto or revision.
- Planning assures us of God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises on time, literally, and exactly, as promised.