

God's Plan - Sunday October 13th 2013.

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

*⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." Amen. (Jeremiah 1:4-5).*

Beloved in the Lord,

No of us are here by accident. We are here, we are alive, we are who we are, because God ordained it. Maybe you were not planned, maybe your parents weren't planning another baby, but God planned it to be so.

Nothing ever surprises God. Nothing ever happens that He did not know about before it happens. Everything happens according to His plan. Our text today makes this very clear. God is speaking to Jeremiah and He tells him three things that we will consider today. Even though these three things were specifically for Jeremiah, the principles and truths are relevant to us also.

God said to Jeremiah:

1. I knew you.
2. I consecrated you.
3. I appointed you.

Clearly, God had a plan for Jeremiah's life. This plan was already formed in God's mind long before Jeremiah was even conceived. This is true with each one of us. I would like you to allow this truth to settle into your mind, into your heart, into your inner most being. If you understand this truth, then you will find it to be of tremendous value to you. It is liberating, it sets us free from many false ideas we have about life.

Once we have understood that God has a plan for each one of us, the next step is to actively seek His will for our lives. This is why I love the Hymn "Take Thou my hand and lead me". When God is leading us, we find out His plan for our life. When we pray Take Thou my hand and lead me, we are actively trusting in Him to lead and guide. Jesus taught us to pray; "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We will have a closer look now at the three points that arise from our text.

Firstly God said to Jeremiah "I knew you."

Eternal God, creator of the universe, says to you and to me, "I knew you before you were formed in the womb." This is hard to comprehend, but it is the absolute truth. Psalm 139 bears this out. David writes:

“O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

***² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.***

***³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.***

***⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.***

***For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother’s womb.***

***¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.***

***¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;***

***¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them. (Psalm 139:1-4;13-16)***

You see, God knew you and me before we were even born. He knew when we would be born; He knew how we would look; He knew exactly what we will do; He knew the number of hairs on our head; He knew every thought we would ever have; He knew the day we would die. This is something beyond our human comprehension.

Why is God telling us these things? I believe in order to comfort us, strengthen us, encourage us, to teach us not to fear, but to trust in Him in all things at all times. He is telling us this in order for us to always seek His face.

Knowing that God knows us in minute detail, should give us security and help us to understand that He has a plan for our life. Each one of us is unique and each has a unique role to play in God’s master plan. This is why it is wrong and dangerous to make comparisons with others. You are not me and I am not you. You are you, and I am I. Each one of us is a unique creation and we have a unique role to play. God created you and He knows you.

The next thing God tells us is” I consecrated you. “To be consecrated is to be blessed, to be set apart for Him. God has blessed each one of us and He continues to bless us daily.

David writes in Psalm 103:

***“Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.***

² ***Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
³ Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; (Psalm 103:1-4)***

The greatest blessing we have is salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord. When we believe on Jesus then our sins are washed away by His blood and our sin debt is paid in full and we become children of God. We have a place in God's own family as His dear son or daughter. Our eternal place in Heaven is settled forever. God has loves you and me so very much. So great was His love that He gave us Jesus His dear Son.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

My friends this is blessing. God does not do to us according to our sins, He does not hold them against us, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, He washes away all our sin and makes us clean in Jesus blood.

God says to us: “I have consecrated you. I have blessed you.” Please understand that He has consecrated us, not so that we sit on our blessed assurance and do nothing. No way. This dove tails us into the third point:

“I have appointed you.”

Do you realise that God has appointed you for service? He has consecrated you, for specific duty, for specific service in His Kingdom. He has a unique role for you to play. No one else can do it, it is your role.

Jeremiah was appointed a prophet to the nations. God said to Him:

“I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

As I read this passage during the week, the thought struck me: Wouldn't it be a tragedy to come to the end of your life, to stand before God at judgement, and find out that you missed God's plan for you? God had a wonderful role for you to play but you didn't respond to His call, you never heeded His invitation.

Through the prophet Isaiah God said these words, which Paul also quoted:

***“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard,
And which have not entered the heart of man,
All that God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1.Cor.2:9)***

I know that we often hear these words at funerals in relation to the wonders of Heaven. We use these words to instil hope and the truth that we cannot begin to imagine how beautiful a place Heaven is. I believe that these words also speak of this life. We cannot begin to imagine how wonderful God's plan is for us if we respond to Him in love. The Christian life is beautiful. So many fail to respond to Christ because they have bought into Satan's lie, that Christianity is restrictive, dull and boring. Nothing could be further from the truth. The devil is a liar. Christianity is exciting. Following Jesus is an awesome adventure. When you live with Jesus in your heart you experience life at it's very best.

The longer you walk with Jesus, the more you experience the fullness of life. You are free. Free from sin, free from fear, free from death.

David put it beautifully:

"The Lord is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23)

This is the testimony of the one who follows God's plan for his or her life.

God knew you, He consecrated you, He appointed you. Trust in Him, follow His plan and your life will be blessed.

Amen

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.