

## When God Messes Up Your Plans

1. The reading – Dan 5:1-6
2. Introduction
  - a. 2020 = unexpectedness
  - b. Nothing according to plan
  - c. Kobe Bryant – Jan 26<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Worldwide pandemic – March
  - e. Business planning on best year, instead shut down – April
  - f. People are not God – James 4:13-16
  - g. Whatever happens is not because our plan but God's will
    - i. No one plans 'die tonight @8pm'
    - ii. Death still comes to all
    - iii. Everything happens = God's will
  - h. Transition: Why does God ruin my plans?
  - i. Continuing series: three things -> When God Messes Up Your Plans

1. He's trying to get your attention
  - a. Proof: Dan 5:1-6
    - i. Summary
      1. Belshazzar big feast
      2. Most weddings <300 – 1000 famous people
      3. Belshazzar drunk or party animal – drink from holy temple vessels from Jerusalem
      4. Gave glory to the God's they created with materials, but not the true God
      5. Partying hard enjoying sin to fullest
      6. Hand on the wall = terror
      7. Daniel explains Belshazzar will be killed tonight
      8. When God messes up your plans he's trying to get your attention
    - ii. Illustration – My testimony before I was a Christian
      1. I was like Belshazzar
      2. Depression/sorrow -> find pleasure anywhere
      3. Food, music, entertainment, drugs
      4. My own little personal feast
      5. Those things lost pleasure –
      6. Terrified – no more joy
      7. God got my attention, ruined all my plans to enjoy newest game, music, movie, show, NBA season

- iii. Why God needs to get our attention: we are too sinful
  - 1. Every unbeliever plans their life without God
    - a. No one plans their day like this: 5am gym, 8pm go to class, 12pm have some Chipotle, 2pm ask God to save me
  - 2. God saves us while we were dead – Col 2:13-14
    - a. God breaks into our life
      - i. Stranger gives you a gospel tract on the way to metro
      - ii. Major car accident
      - iii. Suddenly laid off from work
    - b. What's your response?
      - i. Who do you turn to? No atheists in a crashing plane!
    - c. Gospel
      - i. If you ignore the God when he continues to get your attention – end up like Belshazzar
  - 3. Application for Christians
    - a. Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4
      - i. Summary
        - 1. Nebuchadnezzar dream of mighty tree being cut down
        - 2. Daniel warns Nebuchadnezzar he will eat grass like a wild beast if no repent
        - 3. Nebuchadnezzar ignores – eats grass like a for 7 years
        - 4. At the end gives God glory – Daniel 4:34-37
    - b. Exhortation – God gets your attention for you to recognize the sin in your life
      - i. You can't fight if you don't know who your opponent is
      - ii. Fighting in a ring by yourself – fighting thin air

Transition: When God Messes Up Your Plans He's Trying to Get your attention. The second thing that happens..

- 2. He has a different plan
  - a. Proof – Matthew 1:18-26
    - i. Summary
      - 1. Joseph did not plan on marrying a pregnant woman
      - 2. Adultery = stoning OT law
      - 3. Joseph = merciful and righteous -> divorce > stoning
      - 4. Obviously Mary didn't commit adultery. God had a different plan
      - 5. Let Joseph know Mary give birth to the Messiah

6. Joseph trusted God rather than skeptic, and stayed with Mary to help raise God in the flesh
- ii. Exhortation
  1. When our plans fall apart, remember God has a different plan
  2. A better plan
  3. Joseph plan was not sinful, it was righteous/merciful according to Scripture
  4. God's plan was just far better
  5. God had a plan to save by sending his son to add human nature to his deity, being truly God and truly man
  6. Take our place on the cross
- iii. Illustration – Mom and best buy
- iv. Exhortation
  1. This doesn't apply only if you have sinful plans
  2. Joseph's plans were perfectly in line with Scripture and righteous
  3. When you start to question God why, when your plan was in line with the Bible -> remember God has a different plan
  4. A better plan
  5. Eph 3:20-21
  6. God can do far above what we can imagine or think
  7. When God messes up your plans, he has a different plan
  8. A plan to provide what you need
  9. A plan to make you more holy like Jesus

Transition: The third and final reason why God messes up your plans is because he wants you to trust him.

3. He wants you to trust him
  - a. Proof – Gen 22:1-3
    - i. Abraham that morning had his own plans
    - ii. A plan to take care of his flock/business, spend time with his wife/son, have a nice meal, worship God
    - iii. The last thing Abraham planned = sacrifice his only son Issac
    - iv. And yet this is the very thing God tells Abraham to do
    - v. Something Abraham would never do, something Abraham would hate to do
    - vi. Abraham faithfully obeyed God
    - vii. Thankfully only a test
    - viii. God provided a ram -> worship

- ix. V.1 God was testing Abraham's faith
- x. Does Abraham love Isaac more than him?
- b. Exhortation
  - i. When God messes up your plans he wants you to trust him
  - ii. When you feel like things going the wrong way:
  - iii. God is testing you to show what you truly love
  - iv. So that you trust him

Summary: So these are the 3 things that happen when God messes up your plans..