

"God's Plan"

Text: Romans 8:28-29

Intro:

-The Bible tells us in Isaiah 55:8, that our ways are not the Lord's ways.

-That includes his plan for each one of us.

-That is why sometimes, we cannot understand the things that happen to us in our life.

-We might feel at times that God is being unfair.

-That He is picking on us.

-Sometimes we feel like a victim of circumstances.

-But not true, no accidents with God.

-As a child of God, we are not subject to chance.

-The Bible tells us in Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

-Sometimes we may even feel that God does not know what He is doing.

-We don't see the purpose for it, it doesn't make sense according to human reasoning.

-As Christians, we must learn to hold onto the promise found in Romans 8:28, "all thing" not some things or a few things but "all things"

-Not only the easy things but also the hard or difficult things.

-Not only the routine things but also the unusual things.

-As a child of God, we need to look at our life as a puzzle.

-As many separate pieces make up a whole puzzle, so doesn't many individual separate events or experiences make up our life.

-What the Word of God is telling us, each one of those events put together with the other work together for our good.

-The reason often as Christians we fail to see this is that we focus only on the adversities or the difficult events in our lives.

-We tend to focus on the storms and forget the periods of calm.

-We fail to realize the storms help us appreciate the calm more.

-A wonderful illustration of Romans 8:28 is the life of Joseph.

-Joseph was one of the twelve sons of Jacob.

-Joseph is probably the one character in the Bible that pictures the Lord Jesus Christ or is a type of Christ in more ways than any other character in the Bible.

-As we trace Joseph's life and his life is described in great detail from Genesis 37-50, we will see the promise of Romans 8:28, beautifully illustrated.

-I pray it will be a blessing and help to us as we sojourn on this earth as pilgrims and strangers.

-Ge. 37:3-4, we are told that Joseph's father Jacob loved him more than all his children - made him a coat of many colors.

-As a result his brethren hated him.

-To make matter's worst, Joseph has a dreamed which shows his brethren bowing down to him in obeisance as pictured in the dream as brethren sheaves bowing down to Joseph's sheaf.

-Notice their reply - Ge. 37:8

-Again, Joseph has another dream - see Ge. 37:9-11

-Joseph brethren go to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

-Jacob sends Joseph to see how they are doing.

-His brothers see him coming and conspire to kill him.

-But one of the brothers, Reuben intervenes and says let not kill him but just throw him in a pit in the wilderness.

-Then strip him of his coat of many colors and cast him into the pit.

-After a while they sell Joseph for thirty pieces of silver to a group of travelling Ishmaelites who take him down to Egypt and sell him as a slave to household of Pharaoh.

-The brothers take his coat of many colors and dip it in the blood of a kid of the goats that they have slain.

-They bring it back to their father, Jacob who sees it and thinks a evil beast has devoured his son, Joseph.

-He rent his clothes and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

-Right about now, we would say that no good could come out of all this.

-But we must remember the promise found in Romans 8:28, "all things", this is just one event or thing in Joseph's life.

-It is not over yet.

-That is what we need to remember, when we hit some rough ground.

-The story goes on.

-We see that Joseph advanced in Potiphar's house.

-See 39:1-6. - good ground.

-Potiphar's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and wants him lie with but he refuses.

-She doesn't let up, keeps tempting him.

-But still he refuses her advances.

-She falsely accuses him of trying to rape her.

-Joseph cast into prison. - rough ground.

-However, we read in Gen. 39:21-23.

-Eventually, Joseph restored in Pharaoh's house.

-We read what Pharaoh says to Joseph in Ge. 40:39-40.

-As the story goes on there is a great seven year famine in the land, and Jacob send his sons into Egypt to buy bread not knowing that their brother is not only still alive but also become second to Pharaoh in the Egypt.

-We see eventually that Jacob and his whole family end up in Egypt living and being well taken care up by Joseph.

-Eventually, Jacob dies and the brothers are afraid now that Joseph is going to take revenge on them for what they had done to him many years before.

-But notice what Joseph tells his brothers in Gen. 50:15-21.

-Truly, Joseph's life reflects the promise found in Romans 8:28.

-"All things"

-Psalm 18:30, "As for God, his way is perfect"

-Oh! how we need to remember that we hit the rough ground.

**What is God's purpose behind all of this?

-Romans 8:29, "to be conformed to the image of his Son"

-My dear friend if you are truly going to live for Christ.

-Then remember, you are going to have your Judas Iscariot to betray you.

-You are going to have your Simon Peter to deny you.

-You are going to have your Garden Gethsemane.

-You are going to have your Cross of Calvary.

-But all these things together work for good.

-Yes, as they work for good in our Lord's life.

-The good that came out of it was that all can be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Illustration:

-Do you know how a beautiful pearl is produced?

-The constant irritation of the sand in shell rubbing up against the organism inside the shell produce a beautiful pearl.

-Without the irritations, without the rough ground in our lives, then no beautiful Christians will be produced.

**Do you know why the Children of Israel didn't make it through the wilderness?

-Because always focusing on each little event in their lives.

-Did nothing but complain.

-No water - complain

-No food - complain.

-They acted like God did not know what he was doing.

-That God couldn't provide for them.

-They failed to see the total picture.

-My dear friend, no matter how hard things may get.

-Remember, the promise in, Romans 8:28, "all things"

-Remember, the end result is going to be for good.

-Be a total picture Christian.

-Don't be a one circumstance Christian.

-Because if you do, you will go through life with no joy in your heart and you will be a defeated a Christian.

-Claim the promise in Romans 8:28 and Claim the victory.