

Understanding God in a Confusing World

5-27-20

Living His Master Plan (part 4)

I. Slide1a Announce:

- A. **Slide1b** Welcome Back to Church ~~Church~~ *actually The Building. Hopefully you've been the church!*
1. Yes a lot of *required regulations*, **but** we're so glad you're here.
 2. (I hate masks don't you?) Timothy Keller tells a story in *Generous Justice*, *that in 17th cent Martha's Vineyard there was a high incidence of hereditary deafness. By The 19th century, 1 in 25 were deaf. But what happened was, Instead of making the non-hearing minority learn to read lips, the whole hearing majority learned sign language. The entire community ended up disadvantaging themselves for the sake of the minority.*
- B. **Slide2** Zoom Study - 4 weeks *Jammin thru June w/Jonah* (I mean Zoomin)
- C. **Slide3** Murr Food Pantry - June 8, 9-11am.

II. Slide4,5 Intro: *Living His Master Plan*

- A. Understanding God in a Confusing World. *How to Live with the God We Love.*
1. **We've looked at:** Living in Life's Tension. Living w/a Hide & Seek God. *Living Forward in Faith & Back in Wisdom. Last 1, Living His Master Plan.*
- B. We all want to find out...what is God's plan for **my** life? **But** *what is His Master Plan?*
1. A Master Plan is *a comprehensive or far-reaching plan of action.*
 - a) We had to come up with 1 to open our offices^(26 pages). **And** 1 to open our church
- C. **Slide6** For Mothers Day I had a **puzzle** made for Kelly, of a picture of our family.
1. It's been funny putting together our faces. Mical, *"oh this is defiantly dads eyes with all those wrinkles."* ha!
 2. **But** in putting puzzles together, it sure helps to know **what the whole puzzle looks like**, to see **the big picture**, **so then** I can find where *my*

little piece fits in.

- D. **Slide7** I wonder if we ever ask **the big question** regarding faith and pursuing God?
1. It really needs to be asked and answered in the **beginning** or all of our striving is going to **miss the point**. The big-picture question is: **What is God up to?**
 2. The answer to this is going to *define and shape* all other questions:
 - a) What is God's purpose in creation, the incarnation, the crucifixion, and the resurrection, the calling of disciples, the forming of the church, the giving of the Holy Spirit? What is God's grand scheme, His master plan?¹
 - b) So far what would **you** come up with?
 3. What did Jesus mean when He said, **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?** (what was **His will?**)
- E. To know God's will for **our own lives** can only be grounded in...a correct understanding of His will in **the big picture**.
1. **Each musician** plays best on stage here when they understand **his/her instruments role** in the entire worship song.
 2. **The actor** plays his part well, **only to the extent** that he understands something of the whole movie or story.
 - a) Because of the **individualism** of our culture we often times miss this.
 - b) **Slide8 Question:** Do we see God's will as having a specific will for **each of us** as individuals, for **each** of the 7.8 billion people alive today? Or maybe it's more accurate to understand him as having **one will that involves separate roles** for each of those 7.8 billion people.
 - (1) And just maybe this would help us to not **see ourselves** as the **central figure** of His story.

III. **Slide9,10a** WHAT IS GOD'S MASTER PLAN?

¹ Paradox, Ken Wytsma, pg.42.

A. The Bible is a book about the earth. *It starts with the story of the **creation** of the earth, it continues to describe the **lives of men and women** on the earth. And concludes with a **future vision** of the earth.* It therefore seems logical that God's Master Plan should focus on *the earth*.

1. **Slide10b** Is.45:18 *For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it **empty**, he formed it to be **inhabited!**).* But it goes father...
2. Numb.14:20,21 *Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, according to your word. But truly, as I live, and as **all the earth** shall be **filled with the glory of the Lord**." And 1 day it will.*

B. **Question:** when **Moses** asked to see God's **Glory** what did He get/see?

1. **Slide11** Ex.33:18 *please show me Your glory.* (read 19,22, 34:1,6,7)
2. Many ask *show me Your way* (13) few ask *show me Your **Glory!***
3. *This was God's Glory - His character - the very essence of what He is.*
4. God was telling Moses that *His glory* is revealed through His *compassion, grace, patience, love and faithfulness.*
 - a) So **Gods Master Plan** is His desire to fill the earth with His **character**. With His **characteristics** such as *love, faithfulness, and grace as the waters cover the sea.*
 - b) Hab.2:14 *NLT For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the **glory** of the Lord.*

C. **Slide12** *Holiness is the Lord's hidden glory; **Glory** is the Lord's omnipresent holiness.*

IV. **Slide13a** **HOW DO WE FIT IN TO HIS PLAN?**

A. 1st how does **Jesus** fit in with this plan?

B. Jn.1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his **glory, glory** as of the only Son from the Father, full of **grace** and **truth**.*

1. *Full of **grace** and **truth*** is what is in the Greek of Ex.34:6.
2. Christ came and *perfectly revealed* His Father's character & attitude.

C. **Slide13b** So what does **humans** have to do with this plan?

1. **Everything!** We form an essential part of God's master plan.
2. We provide a **vehicle** through which God will fill the earth with his glory.
3. Yes His **natural creation** reveals God, **but we** help to fill in all the gaps of *His love, mercy, forgiveness, etc.*

D. **Slide13c** 2 Cor.3:18 *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the **glory** of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of **glory** to another. For this comes from the Lord who is **the Spirit**.*

E. **Slide13d** 2 Pet.1:3,4 **His divine power** (Jesus) *has granted to us all things that pertain to **life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

F. **So**, God has a **master plan** for the **earth**. His plan is to fill the earth with **His glory**. God's glory is revealed in His **Character**. We humans are the **vehicles** through which God fills the earth with his glory. So the purpose of life is to **develop the character of God**. And though we have *constantly failed to achieve this purpose*, He will fulfill it in the end.

G. **Prayer**: Your will be done. Understand the role you play in his symphony. Help me to remember, I am not the central figure in Your story.