

Where Is the Master Plan?

by K.P. Yohannan

The sermon highlights the importance of a personal relationship with Christ over strategic planning in Christian life and mission.

Scripture: Luke 18:22, John 15:5, Acts 17:6, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Peter 1:12

Topics: "Relationship With Christ", "Transformation"

Description

K.P. Yohannan emphasizes that during the final days of Jesus, the focus was not on a detailed master plan for salvation but rather on the importance of relationship with Him. As Jesus prepared to fulfill His mission, He spoke to His disciples about abiding in His love, highlighting that transformed lives, not strategies or programs, would bear fruit. The sermon illustrates that true impact comes from living out the love of Christ, as exemplified by David Livingstone's influence on Henry Stanley. Ultimately, the message is that our lives should reflect the transformation that comes from a deep relationship with Jesus, which will naturally lead to eternal results.

Transcript

During the last few days of Jesus' life here on earth, the entire universe, all creation and all the angels in heaven eagerly watched every moment. They didn't want to miss a second! He was the Lamb of God who was slain before the foundations of the world. Thirty-three years ago, they had witnessed in amazement as Jesus stepped out of eternity into time, becoming a human being in order to redeem mankind. Now He was about to wrap up His mission, but it looked as if He were running out of time, with most of His future strategy still to be set up.

First Peter 1:12 tells us that angels actually long to know the details about our salvation. I suppose they had a thousand questions as they watched Jesus walk toward Calvary. Once in a missions conference, I heard a speaker detail a possible conversation between one of these curious angels and Jesus. It went something like this: Angel: Jesus, could You tell me why You came to earth? Jesus: To save the world. Angel: How are You going to do this? Jesus: I am going to die on a cross.

Angel: And then? Jesus: I am going to rise from the dead and return to heaven. Angel: But how will people know what You did for them? Jesus: Well, I have 12 disciples whom I chose out of thousands. These men are going to be My agents of reconciliation and turn the world upside-down. Angel: Watching them for the last three years hasn't impressed any of us angels. Are you going to give them Your master plan? Jesus: What master plan? Angel: Your detailed strategy for communicating the Gospel message with everyone

on earth, changing the world and training others to do the same.

Jesus: I don't have a plan like that. Angel: What are You going to do then? Jesus: I will talk to them about relationship and what it means to abide in My love as I abide in My Father's love. Honestly, I am so amazed to read what Jesus actually shared with His disciples just hours before He went to the cross to die. He discussed no master plan, schemes, fundraising methods, building projects, spiritual laws or even Bible verses to memorize. The entire chapter of John 15 is all about relationship-- man's greatest problem since the Garden of Eden.

It was there that our relationship with God was broken, and ever since, all our human relationships have been in total confusion as well. These were the two things Jesus talked about with His followers. When we read this chapter in John, we could easily misunderstand that Jesus was instructing His disciples on bearing fruit, such as evangelism, witnessing, soul-winning and fulfilling the Great Commission. After all, He told them, "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit" (John 15:5).

But what Jesus is actually referring to in this chapter is their lives. He is showing them how they will be able to produce the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." What Jesus is concentrating on here is not at all the kingdom work that you and I do nor the work the disciples were going to do later on in the book of Acts. The fruit we will bear if we abide in Him is transformed lives.

All we do is simply the result of what we have become. What Jesus explained to His disciples worked so well that we read later on in Acts 17:6, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too." A transformed life will impact everything around it and produce eternal results, without a single struggle to make it happen. Henry Stanley, a worldly reporter, was sent to the jungles of Africa in search of David Livingstone. The last time the old missionary had been seen was seven years before when he returned to Africa in 1865.

Finally, when Stanley found Livingstone in the middle of nowhere, the encounter changed him completely. Stanley lived with Livingstone for four months, sharing the same hut and every part of his life as well. He watched him closely and listened to his words. To his amazement, he could find no fault in this man. Up to that point, Stanley had been very critical of religion and even described himself as the worst infidel in London. But there in the jungle he encountered a man who simply lived out the words of Jesus: "Leave all and follow Me" (see Luke 18:22).

Seeing Livingstone's love, his zeal and his commitment, Stanley's heart changed. "I was converted by him," he wrote, "although he had not tried to do it." With all the frantic activities of modern-day Christianity, it is time for us to learn that it is not the plans we make or the programs that matter most, but the simple truth of letting His life flow through us. Don't let it end. The journey continues . . .

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