

(Basics) 72. God's Plan for Those Who Have Failed

by Zac Poonen

God can take a man who has failed and make something glorious out of him, fulfilling His perfect plan.

Duration: 12:55

Scripture: Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 14:11

Topics: "Redemption", "Spiritual Renewal"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes that God can take a person who has made a mess of their life and turn it into something glorious. He uses the stories of the prodigal son and the parable of the laborers to illustrate this point. The speaker encourages listeners not to listen to the lies of the devil and to believe in God's ability to transform their lives. He also highlights how God remade the heavens and the earth after the fall of Lucifer, showing that God can still make something good out of a situation that has been ruined.

Transcript

Today, we want to consider a word of encouragement for those who feel their life has been a failure. Lots and lots of people feel that they have messed up their life so badly and they wonder, what can I do with my life for God now? There is a message of hope in the word of God for such people. There are many brothers and sisters, believers who feel that because they have sinned and failed God at some time in their past lives, therefore they can't fulfill God's perfect plan for their lives now.

Because they say, well, once upon a time, when I was young, if I had yielded completely to God and lived in His perfect will, maybe I could have, but I have made such a mess of my life, what can I do now? Now, according to logic and our own human understanding, that sounds right. But let's look at the scriptures and you may find that God's thoughts are completely different. God's ways are completely different.

There's hope, even for you. Notice, first of all, how the Bible begins. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.

That's written in Genesis 1, verse 1. And after the heavens and the earth were made, when God makes anything, it's perfect. They must have been perfect, because He never does anything imperfect. But some of the angels whom He had created fell away, and that's described in Isaiah 14, verses 11 to 15, and Ezekiel 28, verse 13 to 18.

And when that happened, we read in Genesis 1, 2, the earth became formless and void and empty and dark. But then, what did God do? He didn't leave the earth in that condition. It says, the Holy Spirit began to move upon that earth, and the word of God went forth on that earth, and God remade that earth.

He worked on that shapeless, empty, dark mass and made something so beautiful out of that mess, that at the end of it, He could say in Genesis 1, 31, it's very good. Now, what's the lesson in the first chapter of the Bible? That even if the devil has made a mess of your life, if you surrender to God's word, you see how God said, God said, God said appears in the first chapter? And to the Holy Spirit, He can make something excellent out of your life, no matter how much you fail. Now, before this failure of Lucifer, God must have had a perfect plan for the heavens and the earth.

But when Lucifer sinned, that plan had to be set aside, but God remade the heavens and still made something good out of it. And now see what happens next. God creates man and woman, and He's got a perfect plan for Adam and Eve.

And in God's perfect plan for Adam and Eve, there was no provision for them to eat of this forbidden tree. That was not God's will. In fact, God clearly said you shouldn't eat of that.

So if God had a plan for them, the plan was they should not eat of it. But they did eat of it, and they spoiled God's plan. Now if we go by logic and reason, we'll have to say, well, now they cannot fulfill God's perfect plan.

Now we have to go to God's second best. But what do we read there? We read there that the Lord comes to Adam and Eve after they have sinned and tells them, well, don't worry, I'm going to solve this problem. I'm going to send a seed through the woman, that's referring to Christ, who will come and bruise the serpent, the devil on his head, and destroy his power over you.

So there He's speaking about Christ dying for our sins and overcoming Satan on Calvary. Now tell me this, what is your answer to this question? Was the death of Christ part of God's perfect plan for us from all eternity or not? The Bible says in Revelation 13, verse 8, that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. So was that in God's mind from eternity, or was it God's second best? How many of you would dare to say that the death of Christ on Calvary was God's second best? Wasn't it His perfect plan? It was.

But yet, when you turn to Genesis 3, logically you have to say Christ had to die only because Adam and Eve failed. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, there would be no need for Christ to die on the cross at all. So then, was it God's perfect plan or not? And we would not have known of God's love if Adam had not sinned.

There would have been no Calvary's cross. What's the answer? You're confused. Because our human understanding cannot grasp this.

That even where man has failed, God can still fulfill His perfect plan. Now human logic fails here, it baffles us. That's why the Bible says, don't lean on your own understanding.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. If God was working according to mathematical logic, then we'd have to say that Christ coming to the earth was God's second best plan. But that's blasphemous.

It was part of God's perfect plan. God makes no mistakes. God, who knows the end from the beginning and who silently plans for us in love, plans something allowing for our failures.

He knows that we're going to fail, He allows for our failures and has made a perfect plan for us. That's the word of encouragement that there is for you. God's perfect plan for Adam was certainly not that they should eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but because He knew the end from the beginning, He knew that they would fail and so He'd already made a plan that accounted for that failure.

The same way in your life. There are a lot of things you've done in your life that God never wanted you to do. But do you know that in His great love for you and in His perfect wisdom, He has made allowance for that failure and can still lead you into His perfect plan.

His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. So don't let your logic and reason say, oh, now I cannot do God's perfect will for my life.

God's message to us from these opening pages of the Bible is just this, that He can take a man who has failed and make something glorious out of him and still make him fulfill. God's perfect plan for his life. That's in the first pages of the Bible and we must never forget it.

And if you're a failure, God can pick you up and fulfill not His second best or third best, but His perfect plan. That's why it's important for you to give the rest of your life totally to God. See because even our failure may, though it's not part of God's perfect plan, may be permitted by Him to teach us some lessons.

For example, we never learn humility, unfortunately, except through many failures. We try to get victory over sin so many times we fail and fail and fail and fail and fail and we realize finally that we cannot without God's help. Well, that's an education we got through our failure.

See for example, Peter. Part of Peter's training for leadership was failure. The Lord could not break Peter through educating him, through teaching him, but when he denied the Lord three times, which was certainly not God's perfect will, it accomplished something in Peter.

It broke him. And that was God's perfect will, that it should be broken. So God can use failure to accomplish something good.

See, one of the biggest problems that God has with us is to bless us in such a way that the blessing does not puff us up with pride. You see, if you get victory over anger and then you become proud, that's falling into a far deeper pit than anger itself. So it's not only important to get victory over sin, it's important to be humble at the end of it.

And how does that happen? Only if God allows us to fail many times. Genuine victory is always accompanied by humility. And the other thing is, if we have failed many times, we can never despise another person.

Because we know we've failed ourselves. So we're not saying that a man should therefore keep on sinning. You know, Paul speaks about that, saying, well, if my dishonesty brought glory to God, Romans 3, 7 and 8. If you follow through with that idea, you come to this, the worse we are, the better God likes it.

But the damnation of those who say such things is just. No, we're not saying that we have to sin. What we're saying is, if we have failed, God is not frustrated in fulfilling His plan for our life.

Every man whom God has used has failed. Peter, Paul, John, James, you, I, everyone. God has not called people who never made mistakes in their life.

If God could fulfill His perfect plan only in the lives of those who never made a mistake, then we'd have to say Jesus Christ was the only person who ever fulfilled God's perfect plan for his life. Nobody else. Great men of God may not have told you about their failures, but they have failed too.

Now the question is whether you can believe that or not. You see, if you don't believe this, if you say, no, no, no, no, it's not possible in my case, then it won't work. But if you can believe, Lord, there's nothing impossible for you.

You can take the mess I've made of my life and still accomplish something glorious, fulfill your perfect plan. It will happen according to your faith. Think of the story of the prodigal son who wasted so many years and all the father's money.

And when he came back, the Bible says he got the best robe and the best seat. What was that? It's a message that says that God can pick up a person who's made a mess of his life and make something glorious out of him. That's the story of the prodigal son.

Think of the story of the man who went out hiring laborers. He went at six o'clock in the morning and hired laborers. And then he went at five o'clock in the evening to hire laborers who could work only for one hour out of twelve.

In other words, they had wasted ninety percent of their life. Eleven hours out of twelve. And they went and worked and they got their reward first.

What does that parable in Matthew twenty teach us? That God can do something even with those who have ruined ninety percent of their lives. Nobody is so hopeless that God cannot do something with them. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

We read in one John three verse eight. He can untie all the knots that the devil has tied up in your life. My brother, my sister, don't listen to the lies of the devil.

When he says no, that's impossible. If you believe him, it'll be impossible. But if you believe God, who can take the broken vessel and as a potter make it again, anew, then it will be fulfilled in your life.

Whatever your blunders and failures, you can make a new beginning. And if you've made a thousand new beginnings, make a thousand and first new beginning today. God can make something glorious out of your life.

Give glory to God by believing this is true. And one day in eternity, God will show you as a person who has a failure, but from whom He brought tremendous glory in your earthly life.

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