

God Has a Plan for Our Children

by Zac Poonen

God has a plan for our children and it's our responsibility to teach them to live for Christ and share what God gives them with others.

Duration: 12:06

Scripture: Psalm 139:13

Topics: "Sanctity Of Life", "Living For Christ"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of keeping ourselves in the presence of God to prevent corruption in our lives, drawing parallels to how even manna from heaven remained incorruptible when kept in the ark. It highlights the sanctity of life, condemning abortion as murder and emphasizing God's intricate involvement in forming each individual. The message stresses the need to live not for oneself but for Christ, understanding the dual purpose of Christ's sacrifice: for the forgiveness of sins and to live solely for Him.

Transcript

It's always a joy to be back home and like I always say, Saare jahan se achha hai CFC hamara. For those who don't understand Hindi, that means of all the places in the world, the best is CFC. And those who have been to other places will recognize that even more.

And I say that after having traveled to many, many places. But it's not something we can sit back and relax and say it's like that. Everything on earth is corruptible.

Vegetables, meat, everything gets corrupt over a period of time. Even the manna that fell from heaven, within 24 hours it was corrupt. But that same manna when it was kept in the ark for 40 years, never got corrupt.

So we learn something that whatever God gives us can get corrupt as soon as we touch it with our human hands. But if we keep it in the presence of God every day, throughout our entire life, it will never be corrupt. And nothing can get corrupted in God's presence.

This church can get corrupt only when the presence of the Lord is not the most important thing. If music becomes the important thing or even great preachers become important and not the presence of Jesus Christ, then we are going downwards. May that never happen.

Turn with me to Psalm 139. Even though it's written by David, it's inspired by the Holy Spirit. And we believe that this is one of those clear descriptions of how God forms a baby long before it is born.

Verse 13, Thou didst form my inward parts, and Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. So I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. That's really true.

Anyone who has studied the anatomy of the human body has to say it's amazing how these little little parts are made from a small seed initially. Now God forms it in the mother's womb. Really fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from Thee when I was made in secret and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance. So God sees a baby from the time it's in the mother's womb.

It's a small little creature. And that's why abortion is murder. Because there's no difference, supposing a baby is born and you kill it, that's murder.

But man thinks that before it's born, inside the mother's womb, it's not murder. But here it says God sees us inside the mother's womb. And it says here, not only that, in Thy book, when it speaks about the book, it's God's mind.

The days that were ordained for me were all written down, even before there was one of them. So how long we live, if we are living in the will of God, is determined already in God's mind. Now I can shorten that period by disobedience, by overeating, by carelessness, treating our body with bad habits like smoking, drinking.

We can shorten that period. But in God's plan, that period can never be shortened by the activity of another person. Someone trying to kill me, harm me, impossible.

The days are numbered. That's why it says about Jesus, they couldn't touch him because his hour had not yet come. I hope you have faith for that.

I have faith for it myself. Because I have no ambition but to glorify God in my life, and I desire to live in the will of God every day, I believe until my hour comes, I cannot go from this earth. And you can have that faith too, if you desire to do God's will alone.

And you have no ambition but to glorify God on this earth. So, when children are dedicated, don't we want them also to grow up, to fulfill the number of their days which God has written down before they were born? Why should a child live shorter than the period God has planned for it? To that large extent it depends on the parents. Teaching that child certain values, of course, ultimately depends on us, ourselves.

But there's a blessing in having parents who taught us the fear of God. Many people here did not have such parents. So you have greater honor that in spite of parents who did not know God, or did not know anything about Jesus Christ, you still came through to Christ.

That's wonderful. I admire you. I have the greatest respect for people who come out of non-Christian homes and stood for Christ, sometimes losing many things.

But I want to say to all of you, if God gives you children from the earliest age, seek to instruct them to pray. You know, even when they don't know how to speak, you can teach them to fold their hands and pray to Jesus before they eat the food. And in little, little things, as they grow up, to teach them the values of God's Word.

Wonderful. Teach them the Ten Commandments, how they must not worship idols. Basically, they must treat others the way they want to be treated themselves.

Jesus said that is the whole of the law is there. To teach children from childhood, treat others the way you want to be treated. Don't you want to play with the toys of other children? You share your toys with them as well.

And to learn to be grateful when somebody serves them or gives them something, to say thank you. These are values that we can teach our children from childhood. And to teach them as they grow up how much Jesus loved them and how that's the most wonderful life they can ever live.

So I think of this passage for these children that we're going to pray for. Before the parents saw them, God saw each of them in their mother's womb. It's an amazing thing to think that.

That even you, my brother, sister, in your mother's womb when you were not even born, God, your father, saw you. And he knew that one day you would give your life to Christ. And that's why he planned your life even in the days before you were born.

Even though you didn't know him, maybe you wandered in sinful ways, but he had his eyes on you waiting for that day when you would surrender to him. And from that time also many of us have failed in many ways. But still God has his eye on us.

But it's a wonderful thing when we have come to understand the truth of God that I can live at least the rest of my life from the time I've got light, no longer for myself. When the Bible says that Jesus died, there are two reasons given why he died. Most Christians know only one reason.

It's like knowing one side of a coin and the other side is blank. That's a counterfeit. Correct coin or a correct currency note will be printed on both sides.

Here is the reason why Christ died. There are two sides to it. Number one.

1 Corinthians 15 and verse 3. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. It's the number one reason. I think even the nominal Christians know that.

The other side of the coin. 2 Corinthians 5. Christ died. 2 Corinthians 5 verse 15.

Christ died for all, not just to forgive their sins, so that those who live, that's you and me, should never again, never again live for themselves, but live only for him who died and rose again. I want to ask you. Are you living for yourself today? Or are you living for him who lived and died for you? You've got to answer that question.

Or do you only know that Christ died for your sins? That's a half a gospel. And that's the main reason why so many people live miserable lives. They've got half the truth.

And it doesn't really work. It's like you need two wires for a light to burn. When they touch, the light burns.

So, if you have only one part of the gospel, you'll have a very unsatisfying Christian experience. So we want to teach our little children from the time they grow up. Jesus died for your sins.

And as they grow to understand a little more, Jesus died so that you might not be selfish, so that you might not grab everything for yourself, but learn to share what God gives you with others from earliest childhood to teach them to live for Christ. That's a wonderful inheritance. You can give your children more than giving them a million rupees.

This is the inheritance we want to give.

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