

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

God's Divine Plan

Matthew 28:19-20

¹ God's divine plan is found in Matthew, chapter 28, verses 19 and 20. ² **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commended you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

An illegitimate baby girl is left at an orphanage. She is unwanted, lonely and scorned.

Then, a family adopts her. She becomes one of that family, socially acceptable and the object of love. She loses all the rights she had to her old family but becomes heir to her new father's estate. She acquires a new name and a new character. In essence, she becomes a new person. ³

Galatians, chapter 4, verse 7 says, **So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.** You are adopted by God. You lose your rights to the old life but become heir to everything your Heavenly Father has. Your life

changes. You acquire a new name. You become a different person! ⁴

Surely everyone wants this, and God wishes that none would perish but have eternal life. ^{1 5}

So why isn't everyone a Christian? ⁶

Because some will not accept the Lord no matter what you do. ⁷

Because some know about Lord Jesus but have never been introduced to Him. ⁸

Because some, simply, have never been shone **the way, the truth, and the life!** ²

You have been given the responsibility to share the gospel with those around you. But how? ⁹

Here is God's Divine Plan! ¹⁰

¹ John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

² John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I. Step 1: Begin Seeking the Lost!

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This was our Lord's mission. Luke, chapter 19, verse 10, says, **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.** ¹²

The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, **She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.** ^{3 13}

According to Matthew, chapter 15, verse 24, ⁴ Lord Jesus went to the lost sheep of Israel first; and then He said, **I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.** ^{5 14}

The Lord will not be satisfied until everyone has had a chance to receive eternal life!

³ Matthew 1:21.

⁴ Matthew 15:24 - "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

⁵ John 10:16.

Lord Jesus asked one of His disciples if he owned a hundred sheep and one was lost, wouldn't he leave the ninety-nine to find the lost one? When you find it, you take it home happy it is safe. You might even gather some of your friends to celebrate finding it. That's kind of what happens when God finds you! ⁶ The Lord's mission was to find lost people and restore them to the Heavenly Father! ¹⁵

That is still the Lord's mission as He lives His post resurrection life in and through you! ¹⁶ He told you to **go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.** ⁷ He wants to continue the job in and through you! ¹⁷

In Second Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 20, He calls you His ambassador! ⁸ ¹⁸

⁶ Luke 15:3-7.

⁷ Mark 16:15.

⁸ II Corinthians 5:20 - We are therefore Christ's ambassadors.

Notice His strategy in Romans, chapter 10, verse 14, **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?**

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No one can come to the Lord until he has first been taught. We have quite a responsibility, don't we? 20

Now, to the next step.

II. Step 2: Continue Seeking the Lost!

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Finding is the reason for seeking, right? To stop seeking without finding is to fall short of your responsibility. But how many of you, if you seek at all, quite without finding? 22

How many of you ignore the opportunities you have? ²³

Who in your own family have you really talked to about God? ²⁴

Does your next-door neighbor go to church anywhere? Do you even know? ²⁵

How about the people you work with throughout the week? If you are prayerful, diligent and persistent, you might find! With the one lost sheep in Luke 15, the shepherd looked for that lost lamb until he found it! ²⁶

The reward for finding was joy! ⁹ Notice the joy in Luke, chapter 15. ²⁷

In the Parable of the Lost Lamb: verse 5 says, And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders. ²⁸ Then, in verse 7, I tell you that in

⁹ Luke 15:1-32.

the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ²⁹

In the Parable of the Lost Coin: verse 9 says, And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ³⁰ Then, in verse 10, In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." ³¹

In the Parable of the Lost Son: verse 24 says, For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ³²

Remember James, chapter 5, verse 20, **Whoever** turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of

sins. There is no joy like watching someone you have witnessed to commit their life to the Lord!

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Make this your evening prayer: “Lord, use me to witness to someone this week. With Your power, help me to introduce them to You!

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