

### **Opening**

- Me, planning?
- How about you?

### **Resolutions**

- "Promises to yourself"
- Non-binding ;)
- Often go by the wayside before the confetti in Times Square is gathered up
- You can't feel guilt for not keeping a promise you never made
- Going beyond resolutions

### **Reflection, Dreams, and Desires**

- Sometimes as men we don't do great with reflection - guilt
- Too busy, well intentioned, don't want to face it
- Dreams could be considered the birthplace of planning
- Spur us on to action, keep us going

### **Intentionality**

- Often used (really)
- I should vs. I will
- Intentional planning

### **Perseverance**

- A must for success
- See it through to the end

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty, Proverbs 21:5 ESV

### **Planning Basics**

#### **What is a plan?**

Prepare/preparation  
Strategize/Strategy  
Course of action

#### **Plans and their purposes**

Battle Plan - Victory in battle/con  
Game Plan - Success against your opponent, win the game/match  
Business Plan - Profit, growth, longevity  
Financial Plan - Financial security/success  
Family Plan - Children (number of, parenting style), spiritual tone, education, schedules, vacations, traditions, etc.  
Trip Plan - On time, safe arrival at your destination (incl. sites along the way)  
Disaster Preparedness Plan - Management of or recovery from an emergency situations

Plans are like projects, they need a clear objective and a date or duration of time when they

are expected to be completed.

### **Start With a Clear Goal**

You may have heard of SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timed). These are good principles to apply when putting together the goal or objective of your plan. Here is a practical example:

- S - Complete baby step #1 (Dave Ramsey)
- M - Have \$1,000 in Savings
- A - Yes, given enough time
- R - First step towards financial freedom
- T - By x date

### **Write it down**

It may seem a bit formal but writing out your plans forces you to organize your thoughts and provides something tangible that you can go back and review.

### **Check Your Progress**

You need to review how you are doing on executing your plan on a regular basis. How frequently will depend on many factors such as the nature of the plan, your age, or the impact of success or failure of your plan. You'll also want to review your plan and progress with others who may be involved or impacted or who may be able to provide sound advice or feedback (e.g. spouse, family, friend, professional).

### **Be Flexible**

The old adage of the only constant being change is pretty accurate. Life is full of changes that can play havoc on our plans. We need to review our plans on a regular basis to provide an opportunity to see how we are doing "according to plan" and make adjustments where needed. We also may have just missed the mark with our plan and need to, course correct.

**Question:** Do you make New Years resolutions? Are you a planner? If so discuss some of your resolutions or plans and whether you were successful at achieving them. What worked and what didn't.

## **Planning and The Bible**

Are We Commanded to Plan?

### **Let's Look at God's Word**

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." Proverbs 19:21 ESV

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow

will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.", James 4:13-15 ESV

Surely this means we don't have to plan, right? Actually the text is a warning against planning without God.

**Further verses reinforcing the need for us to establish plans.**

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. Proverbs 6:6-8 ESV

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, Proverbs 27:23 ESV

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Luke 14:28-30 ESV

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8 ESV

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17  
Where is God in Your Plans

The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving. Proverbs 14:8 ESV

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5 ESV

**God and Your Plans**

Bathe your planning process in prayer throughout the journey. Be careful not to make our plans then ask God to bless them. We should approach the throne in prayer asking for wisdom and discernment.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3 ESV

## **Don't Go it Alone**

Seek out others who you trust and who are known to excel in the areas that you are working on. Parents, friends, mentors, professionals. You can also read books of authors known to be experts in their field.

How appropriate that the wisest man to ever live had so much to say about relying on others for guidance.

"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14 ESV

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." Proverbs 12:15 ESV

"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." Proverbs 15:22 ESV

"Plans are established by counsel; by wise guidance wage war" Proverbs 20:18 ESV

<p><b>Question:</b> What areas of your life or the lives of your family do you feel need attention? What have you or will you do to begin to move the chains on those areas?</p>
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## **Biblical Examples of Planning**

### **Solomon - Planning to build the temple**

1. He gathered the necessary resources: cedars were cut from Lebanon (1 Kgs 5:6)
2. He organized the people. "Solomon assigned 70,000 men to carry loads, and 800,000 men to quarry stone in the mountains, and 3,600 to supervise them." 2 Chro 2:2)
3. He designed the facility (2 Chro 3:3)
4. He set a time to begin his project (2 Chro 3:2)
5. He completed the project: "Thus all the work that Solomon performed for the house of the LORD was finished." (2 Chro 5:1)

### **Joseph - Executing on God's plan to prepare for and survive the famine**

"Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.'" Genesis 41:33-36 ESV

### **Nehemiah - Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem**

1. His goal - "And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I

- may rebuild it.” (v2:5)
2. How long it would take - And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. (v2:6)
  3. What resources he needed - And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, (v2:7)

### **Quotable Quotes**

A goal without a plan is just a wish

Failing to plan is planning to fail

A good plan okay is better than a great plan tomorrow

The scariest moment is always just before you start, Stephen King

Plans are worthless but planning is everything, Dwight D. Eisenhower

### **Go big!**

If you don't need God to accomplish what you're planning you're not dreaming big enough.

Ask yourself...

Are you moving closer towards where you are want to be, moving away from your ultimate goal, or standing still?