

## The Story

Chapter 9 — The Power of Divine Purpose

Class Notes

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### 1 Introductory Thoughts

### 2 You are intimately tied to a huge plan that God is unfolding on planet earth and throughout His Kingdom at every level.

- If life has a \_\_\_\_\_, then there is a plan.
  - **John 1:1-4 (ESV) — 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
  
- The plan has a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **John 14:6 (ESV) — 6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
  
- The plan has an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **Mark 1:17 (ESV) — 17** And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
  
- The plan is always about \_\_\_\_\_ others for their good and beyond.
  - **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) — 18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
  
- The plan has an ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ that we must respond to.
  - **2 Peter 3:10-13 (ESV) — 10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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- The plan has \_\_\_\_\_ to our destiny.
    - **Matthew 12:36–37 (ESV) — 36** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, **37** for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
    - **2 Corinthians 5:9–10 (ESV) — 9** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
    - **2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) — 10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
  
  - The plan has a present-day \_\_\_\_\_ that flows into eternity.
    - **1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (ESV) — 12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13** each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.
    - **Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) — 19** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
  
  - 3 **You’ve been given a place and a measure of influence.**
    - **2 Corinthians 10:13–16 (ESV) — 13** But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the **area of influence** God assigned to us, to reach even to you. **14** For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. **15** We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our **area of influence** among you may be greatly enlarged, **16** so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another’s **area of influence**.
      - “Area of Influence” is made up of two Greek words.
        - Metron — measure (of influence)
        - Kanon — place
  
    - **Acts 9:15–17 (ESV) — 15** But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” **17** So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

4 Possessing our place (calling, purpose, area of influence) in God's plans.

- \_\_\_\_\_ must be a central motivation to every encounter.
  
- Live in a present-day reality of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- Give yourself to the \_\_\_\_\_ of lost days.
  - **Joel 2:25 (ESV) — 25** I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.
  
- God has given us His \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can flourish.
  - **John 10:10; Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**
  
- God gave the Church *called and anointed* \_\_\_\_\_ to mature us.
  - **Ephesians 4:11-16**
  
- Our calling manifests as a product of talent, gifting, and strategic-faith choices.
  - Talent came with you by God's creation.
  - Gifting and anointing was imparted to you from the Holy Spirit.
  - Strategic-faith choices increase our "metron" as we apply what God has given us.

5 Summary Thoughts