



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

### **Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth**

**Supports Session 10:** Trust

**Sermon Title:** "Trusting God's Plan" (Matthew 16:21-23)

---

#### **Connection to Session 10**

God had a unique plan for Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. God also has a unique plan for mankind to deliver us from our sin.

#### **Introduction/Opening**

The word trust means to rely upon someone, or something based on that person's or thing's integrity. I trust the food I am going to eat at lunch today will not kill me. I trust that my wife will support me and encourage me. The key to trust is action. Since I trust the food, I will eat it. Since I trust my wife loves me, I will share my thoughts and feelings with her. Today we will study God's plan for salvation. As we learned in Bible study this morning, Gideon trusted God's plan and the Israelites were delivered from the Midianites. Let's learn God's plan for salvation and make sure we are trusting Him for our eternity.

#### **Outline**

- 1. God's plan is necessary** (v. 21)
  - a.** We must understand the context of this passage to correctly interpret and apply what Jesus taught. He had just asked the disciples who they believed Him to be. Peter stated, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16), and Jesus affirmed Peter's statement. Shortly thereafter, Jesus "began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem" (v. 21). This was not an anticipated journey by the disciples, for Jesus and the disciples did not have a good experience in Jerusalem because they were attacked and threatened. Yet Jesus said that it was necessary to go.
  - b.** How many of us here today have experienced a necessary surgery? It may have been a simple procedure, or it may have been something more extensive. We did not look forward to it, but we knew that it was necessary. We also understood the consequences of not going through with the surgery.

- c. In similar fashion, God had a plan for the redemption of mankind, and it is truly necessary. We will soon see that the plan did not make sense to Peter, and it still may not make sense to some today. This did not change the fact that the plan was, and is, necessary.

## 2. **God's plan is not always easy** (v. 21)

- a. As Jesus began to articulate God's plan, He did not spare any details. He clearly stated that the plan included suffering and death. If someone approached us after church today and invited us to an opportunity to suffer and eventually die, we would be wise to turn down their invitation. As we think about the quickness of how we would respond to this invitation, we should stop and consider the fact that Jesus was both fully God and fully man. Being fully God, He knew what was ahead. Being fully man, He would feel the pain of the moment, and He would hear the ridicule of those sneering at Him.
- b. While we will not have to die for the sins of mankind, this does not mean that we will not experience suffering if we chose to follow God's plan. Jesus clearly stated in the Sermon on the Mount, "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me" (Matt. 5:11). It would be wise to note that Jesus said "when they insult you," not if they insult you. Following God's plan is not always easy, and this is where trust comes into play. We need to trust His plan more than our circumstances because our circumstances can be difficult.

## 3. **God's plan can draw criticism** (v. 22)

- a. Many of us can find encouragement in the actions of Peter. At times, he would provide amazing answers as evidenced in verse 16. At other times, however, he would speak or act without thinking about the consequences. This was one of those times. Peter literally pulled Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him. To "rebuke" means to openly chastise or disagree with someone. Matthew depicted Peter as continually chastising and disagreeing with Jesus until Jesus rebuked him in verse 23.
- b. If we are to think that following the plan that God has for us will bring unending praise from those around us, then we would be sorely misguided. This doesn't need to deter us from following His plans, because His plans are truly worth it. But we do need to be aware of the fact that we will encounter criticism along the way.

## 4. **Staying focused on God's plan** (v. 23)

- a. If we were ever looking for a place in which Jesus was direct and did not soften His words, then this verse is it. Jesus told Peter that his problem was that he was

focusing on human concerns and not God's concerns. Jesus, unlike Peter, was not struggling with this dilemma, for His focus was God's focus.

- b.** The church today could learn a great deal from this exchange. We, too, can be guilty of focusing on human concern of personal preferences when God's concern is the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Let's commit today to focus on God's concerns.

## **Conclusion**

Some may ask why God would send His Son to provide a way of salvation for all. This plan may seem strange and has drawn criticism throughout the centuries. Let us as a group today understand the necessity of this plan as we remain focused on proclaiming it.

**Tod Tanner** has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Middle Tennessee. He is serving as the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and a bi-vocational pastor.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.