

Psalm 33 - The God Who Frustrates

December 26, 2019

Psalm 33:8-11 ESV

8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

frustrates - (nuw' - hinder, forbid, restrain, frustrate, discourage, make averse)

11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

"The whole discipline of life is to enable us to enter into this closest relationship with Jesus Christ."

—Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, Intimate with Jesus, January 7

God is very frustrating when we are out-of-step with His plans, because His plan always prevails, never ours.

The level of our frustration is a direct measure of our surrender to His plans and our contentment in Him.

We will stay frustrated with God when we try to find satisfaction in our circumstances and our plans - life the way we think it should be.

The source and focus of our satisfaction and peace must be in Christ alone, His person, His presence and our fellowship with Him. Then circumstances will matter less and less.

We can be at perfect rest and peace in Christ in the very worst circumstances.

Surrender to God's sovereign plan is many times harder than keeping His commandments.

God's Ever-Prevailing Plan

There is a spiritual and indiscernible threshold between God's sovereignty and our choices, and His sovereignty rules even over our choices.

Proverbs 16:9 ESV

9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

"Man plans, God laughs." —Yiddish (Jewish) Proverb

Proverbs 19:21 ESV

21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

James 4:13-16 ESV

13 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"--

14 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.

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Discontentment Destroys

Hebrews 3:7-19 ESV

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

- They were perceiving God's will through appearances, circumstances and their own selfish will, instead of God's presence, provision and protection.
- Before God could take them into the Promised Land, their hearts had to be exercised in being content and satisfied in God alone, not in having their way.

10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'

11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?

17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1-11 ESV

1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."

5 And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

7 again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,

10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.