

PART 1-Clarifying God's Plan

Play Part 1

1. React to the following quotes. What do you think they are trying to say? What's the point?
 - A. **Eisenhower** – "Plans are nothing but planning is everything."
 - B. **Ben Franklin** – "Failing to plan is planning to fail."
 - C. **Zig Ziglar** – "Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised."
 - D. **Margaret Thatcher** – "Plan your work; then work your plan."
 - E. **Claire Cook** – "If Plan A doesn't work remember the alphabet has 25 more letters."
 - F. **Woody Allen** – "If you want to make God laugh just tell him your plan."
 - G. **Unknown** – "God may wreck your plan when He knows your plan will wreck you."
2. Comment on the speaker's statement: "Rather than spend a lot of time being frustrated by a failed plan, maybe we're far better off looking for the alternative. Where is God directing us ... pushing us ... taking us?"
 - A. God really isn't interested in my plans.
 - B. God has already decided so my plans don't really matter.
3. What are the dangers of thinking:
 - A. God really isn't interested in my plans.
 - B. God has already decided so my plans don't really matter.

4. You walk into McDonald's and consider either a hamburger or a fish sandwich for lunch. You choose the fish sandwich. Who made the decision? You or God? Did God just know or did he make the decision for you?

5. The speaker said, "It is a huge comfort to know that every thought, every word, every plan that comes through this little puny brain of mine – God has already factored into what's best for me? Agree or Disagree – Why? Why not?"

6. **Jeremiah 29:11** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." What does this passage say to you?

PART 2-Case Study #1 - King David

Play Part 2

1. Review **2 Samuel 7:1-16** and respond to the speaker's comments:
 - A. "It seems that God would bless such a plan. How do you think David felt after Nathan told David God didn't want him to build the temple?"
 - B. Have you ever had a "good plan" that God stopped? What was it? How did you feel?
 - C. "When God says 'No' it's not to hurt... frustrate... disappoint. It's to redirect. He has something better."
 - D. What is the temptation for us when our plans seem to fail or when we need to change them?
 - E. "There's no reason for me to get frustrated when a door gets closed. I can simply say, 'Lord take me to a better place.'"
 - F. "A lot of God's plan often times is don't get so caught up in your life here because I have something way better for you."