

NEXT STEP QUESTIONS

1. Spend seven minutes discussing this week's talk. What was the one thing that resonated with you most?
2. What is your reaction to the statement, "God has a plan for my life."
Read and discuss the following scriptures: Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 15:13, and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.
3. In what way may God be redirecting your life, and how does releasing control of your plan and discovering His plan change your attitude?
4. What does it mean to "guard your heart" and how do you do it?
5. How do you guard your heart in those moments where life takes an unexpected turn?
6. How does spending the first seven minutes of your day with God affect your day?

Action Step:

Recommit to spending your first seven minutes a day with Jesus this week. Use it as an opportunity to read and reflect on how God altered the plans of Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24) and Mary (Luke 1:26-38) and how they reacted to God's will for their lives. How may God be redirecting your path and are you embracing or resisting His plan?



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THE Heart OF Christmas

Church on the Ridge

December 15-16, 2018
Charlie Salmon

When God changes your plans; guard your heart.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23 NIV

Mary and Joseph had plans.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38 NIV

When God changes your plans remember:

1. He wants your _____.

"How I wish my people would listen to me."

Psalms 81:13 NCV

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.

Hebrews 12:2 GNT

2. He wants your _____.

"I know what I am planning for you," says the Lord, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NCV

• God's future is _____ than yours.

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:32-33 NIV

• God's future is more _____ than yours (but also more miraculous).

You do the difficult, God will do the _____.

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

Luke 1:31 NIV

No one has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9 TLB

3. He wants your _____.

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it happen to me according to your word."

Luke 1:38 BSB

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 NLT

"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

• God will _____ it.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 NIV

• God will _____ it.

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Hebrews 13:5 NLT

• God will _____ it.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Psalms 34:18 ESV

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 10:14-15 NIV