

# **“What Are Your Plans?”**

## **By Brother Kenneth Ray**

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Have you ever had someone ask you the question, “What are you up to?” or “What do you have going on?” Chances are, you were being asked about that day’s events and how you plan to address it. They wanted to know about the next five minutes.

Now, have you ever had someone ask you this question, “What are your plans?” This question lends itself to a more in-depth thought process. You are being asked to express a view that extends further down the road (more than just here and now). If you have a grand plan, you may give a very detailed view of it. If you have a smaller plan, you may give a little less detailed view. If you have no plan, you will just say so; you will say, “I don’t know.”

NOTE: Not everyone in life has the same size plan, and, it is possible that the size of your plan will change.

This morning, we are going to take a look at several different people in the Bible with several different plans.

First, Moses was a man, who, at the point we meet him, had a fairly simple plan.

*Exodus 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law ...*

He’s keeping the sheep (or whatever livestock they had). Moses had been born of a Hebrew slave, and she made a little ark for him, and his sister watched him. He got adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter (so he essentially became a prince), but then he saw an Egyptian man mistreating one of the Israelites, so he killed the Egyptian man and buried his body in the sand. The next day, he saw two of the Israelites arguing, and he said, “You are brothers,” and one of them said, “Will you kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?” Moses then realized that it was known. Pharaoh wanted Moses dead. Moses fled to the land of Midian where he kept flocks. He is not seeking fame, but a simple life.

If you read verse 2, you see that we are looking at the story known as the burning bush. God speaks to Moses and asked the question, “What are your plans?” He doesn’t use those exact words, but that’s essentially what he’s asking.

*Exodus 3:9 ...I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.*

So, what are you going to do about it?

*Exodus 3:10 ...I will send thee unto Pharaoh that thou mayest bring forth My people...*

So, Moses asks, “What are your plans?” and God responds, “I have something for you to do; I have a work that needs to be done.” Moses was a very humble man, and slow of speech. He immediately began making excuses. God gave him the help he needed and used him to see the Children of Israel come out of Egypt. Maybe you need someone to help you fulfill the plans.

Second, Saul (Paul) was a well-learned man; he had a vast background of knowledge in many things, customs, standards, way of life, and culture. Paul was a man of influence. He

would not have rubbed elbows with the middle class; he would have rubbed elbows with the upper class. He was a member of one of the two major religious sects of the time; he was a Pharisee. The other sect was the Sadducees; the difference between them was that the Pharisees believed in the resurrection, but the Sadducees didn't. In Paul's own words:

*Acts 26:5 ... after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.*

*Philippians 3:5 ...an Hebrew of the Hebrews...*

As the movement of Jesus came about and His ministry and fame grew, Paul felt that his religion was threatened (what did they accuse Jesus of? teaching things contrary to the Law of Moses). So Paul (Saul) went about to destroy it, putting some people in jail, and putting some people to death.

So, one day Paul was on the road to Damascus, and God spoke to Paul, and blinded him. God told him it is hard to kick against the pricks. Paul had a 'What are your plans?' moment. His plans kicked against the pricks of the Holy Ghost. Sometimes we get stubborn, because things are changing, and God is dealing with us about how we need to change, but we don't want to change, and so we kick against the pricks—the Holy Ghost trying to lead us. We say, "Oh, no, we're NOT going down that road." Sometimes we tell God, "I'm not going to tell you my plan so that you can't change it," or am I the only one that does that?

God spoke to Ananias about Paul:

*Acts 9:11-14 ...enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul...*

Ananias is a little scared; can't somebody else do this?

*Acts 9:15-16 ...Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me...*

God had to ask Ananias, "What's your plan?" God changed both their plans.

Anyone here ever hold a grudge? Don't raise your hand. Paul went from being the one doing to being one of the ones that it was being done to. Can you imagine what it must have been like for the people in the church? Some of them knew people that had been killed because of Paul, now they had to forgive him and work with him. Paul became one of the most powerful men in the New Testament. Be careful about your plans.

Now we have talked about a man in the Old Testament that may have been the most humble man in the Bible, and we have talked about a man in the New Testament who was not humble at all, in fact, you might even say that he was arrogant. Is that all there is? I mean, some of us are humble some days and arrogant on other days...

There is another group of people that you might fit into: The Twelve. We know that one was a tax collector, and some were fishermen, but, how about this description: unlearned and ignorant.

*Acts 4:13 ... Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men...*

I don't think I would want that to be my greatest accolade, but, they acknowledged that these men had been with Jesus.

The humble, slow of speech; the well-learned and of influence; or the unlearned and ignorant—our plans differ one from another, but all can, and are used when placed in God's hands.

I don't need the ability; I'm not applying for a job. It is all about putting yourself in God's hands. Maybe there's something that you feel strongly about. Why do you feel strongly about it? When you spend time with God, you will understand why you feel strongly about it. Time spent with Jesus reveals a lot about who we are, what we want, what we will try, and the things that make us both go and stop. It will encourage you to start something new, or to continue doing something right. Consider what is most important to Christ. Meet a Savior who loves you so very much. Me and Jesus got a thing, and I'm not ashamed at all. It can cause you to consider and to do things that you never could see yourself doing. As you look deeper into God's love and further down the road you travel, it just might touch you in such a way that your plans get changed. They know your weakness; you, too, know your weakness, but it won't stop God from choosing you or using you if you make an excuse. You answer a call, maybe by asking a question of Jesus, "What are Your plans? Here am I, send me."

