

How To Deal With “Not Yet”

May 1, 2022

Text: Hebrews 11:13 (NIV)

Written: April 4, 2022

- 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised;** they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.
- Hebrews 11:35–40 (NIV): 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.
- 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet **none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.**

Big Question: Does God have a plan that you cannot see?

Side Question: Can you describe a plan God had for you that **you could not see**, at the time, but it worked out for your good.

- A. My career path
- B. My marriage to Diane
- C. My living location (Savannah, amazing)
- D. My current job (I never dreamed it)
- E. My two children (I wanted four, changed my mind)
- F. Etc.



What Was God Waiting for In My Life?

- A. I needed the right **influencers**
- B. I needed a different **mind-set** (I had to learn life could happen beyond L.A.); Romans 12:2
- C. I needed a different level of **academic discipline** (I could not handle the job He planned)
- D. I needed a different **perspective on life** and the world (You can only teach what you see)
- E. I needed a higher level of **passion and hunger** (Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are the hungry they shall be filled.”)

What Has God Been Waiting For

Us “Religious People” to See

- A. We need to see what is **not sustainable** (May 2022 series)
- B. We need to see with our real **job description** (Matthew 28:19-20)
- C. We need to see the importance of **maturing people** above growing crowds (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- D. We need to see the power of being a **lender not a borrower** (Prov. 22:7, NIV)
 - The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender

Next Time:

Four Things That Are Not Sustainable

1. **Growth Without Decline** (Ecclesiastes 3, Managing the Up’s and Downs)
2. **Economic Success Without a Decline** (You must manage both)
3. **Hope Deferred** (Proverbs 13:12, Managing Disappointment)
4. **Lies That Hide the Truth** (Luke 8:17-18, Managing Lies that can Deceive You)