



# Managing GOD's Money

Many people confuse a **goal** and **plan** to their detriment.

A **goal** is the destination – where God wants you to be, or what God wants you to do.

A **plan** is the journey– how to get there, or how to do a job.

Until a few years ago, I defined a goal as **my destination**, where **I wanted to go**, or what I wanted to do. I would say, I want to go to Bible College, or I want to start a business. Rather than, God, where do you want me to be?

As I dug in God's Word and started to understand my discipleship and stewardship roles better, it convicted me I was me-centered, not seeking God's best. Unconsciously, I was looking at my wants and me.

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:10 to seek His will, and in Matthew 6:33, to seek first His Kingdom. Our goals must be to find out and then do His will. Let's read these two verses:

**Matthew 6:10**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Matthew 6:33**

**... seek first his kingdom and his righteousness ...**

Not only did Jesus teach us to do His will, but also He practiced this with His Father. In **Matthew 26:42**, He said:

**Matthew 26:42**

**... "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."**

Scripture shows a consistent pattern of God setting goals and calling individuals to fulfill them. Goals God gives His people are **clear**, **complete**, and **concise**. **As well**, He defines matching plans and gives us; we need to trust and obey! Normally, no one sees or understands goals and plans when we get them, because we look at our circumstances rather than on God. We forget believers in Christ have won the war; so, we don't see God's clear, complete, and concise goals. Especially since, often we need faith to believe what we hear from God.

To see and hear God's goals, we must be open continually to hearing, believing and obeying Him. Let's consider Moses' interaction with God.

Pharaoh drove Moses out of Egypt, and Moses settled in Midian. He had no desire to return to Egypt, but God came along, gave him a clear, complete, and concise goal. This wasn't Moses' goal. In Exodus 3:10, God said:

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**Exodus 3:10**

**So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt**

Choosing Moses shows how God views us. We might think we are not ready for a job, or we don't have the skills, but God provides. He doesn't look at who **we are today**, but **who we will become by trusting Him**. Isn't this reassuring?

Usually we are not ready, and often we don't have the skills! Remember, God knows our weaknesses and can use them to show His awesome powers! Rest assured, when He selects you or me, He will give us all we need to do the job. So let's not preempt Him by borrowing or getting more than He has given us to do His job. He knows what we need, we don't.

When we think we need to borrow, stop, ask God to show us where He wants us to be and what He wants done. Insufficient funds might be God telling us to turn away from what we are doing and join Him where He is.

Not only does God give us goals, but also He gives us the plan and promises to be with us along the way. Listen to what He told Moses in Exodus 3:12

**Exodus 3:12**

**And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."**

Next time we will look at the plan, which every goal needs. Meanwhile, consider this:

**What's your destination?**

- 1. Are you working your goals, God's goals, or no goals?**
- 2. If you don't know where you are going you will get there!**

God bless and remember, Jesus loves you