

Simple Trust

John David Crowe | Aug 14, 2011



In a nutshell: Sometimes God asks us to do things that in our human reasoning do not make much sense. Obeying God in these circumstances requires *Simple Trust*.

Icebreaker: John David used a "Christmas" story to illustrate this week's message.

Discuss: Have you ever celebrated Christmas in the middle of summer? What were the circumstances?

To have *Simple Trust* we must understand:

God's plans are higher than our plans. Don't hold your plans for your life up higher than what God has planned for you. Mary and Joseph certainly had plans for their lives that had to be set aside in order to obey God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Joseph's response to God's will: "He did what the Lord had commanded him." (Matthew 1: 18-25)

Discuss: Read Luke 1:26-38. Use multiple translations if available. Compare and contrast the words the various translators used. Put yourself in Mary or Joseph's place. What do you think your response would have been?

God's plans may seem preposterous. Don't discount the plan of God even though it seems preposterous! Noah, Jonah, and the apostles obeyed God even though they did not understand the details of what God was asking them to do.

Discuss: Google "preposterous." Does a "preposterous" plan seem more or less likely to you to be God's plan?

God's plans may fulfill our desires. Trust the Lord to bring you desires, and then go after them. God is the author of "holy discontent" (a desire to right a wrong) as well as a passion to make a positive difference. But, God's will never contradicts His word.

Discuss: Read Psalms 37:3-5. How do you know that your "desires" are from God? What would be an indication that your desires are *not* from God?

God's plans are worthy of our trust. We cannot understand God's ways. We must *simply trust* Him and follow where He leads. Following the will of God has costs, but we can't be distracted by too many "what ifs" or "pro's vs. "con's." All we need to do is make sure that it is God doing the asking.

Discuss: Do you tend to weigh all the evidence before obeying God? What constitutes a *reasonable* assessment of what God is asking you to do?

As a Group: One of the benefits of being in a (CORE group) small group is the guidance of trusted friends who know you and want God's best for you.

Discuss: What role does your small group have in helping you process a major decision? Do you rely on confirmation from trusted friends to be sure that you are hearing from God?