

Title: The Situation Room
Text: Luke 10.21-24
Theme: The heart of God's plan
Series: Luke
Prop Stmtnt: The heart of God's plan is God's joy in our good.

In the White House there is a complex of rooms that occupy roughly 5,000 square feet that are called, The Situation Room. It is technically not one room, but several that serve as a secure place for the president, chief of staff, national security advisor, homeland security advisor and others where they can monitor both national and world intelligence. When a major operation is taking place, this team will huddle there and watch as it unfolds. They can watch in real time, the operation. Previous to this, they have been given various scenarios and plans and after all of the elaborate details are in place, now comes the "go time" for the actual operation. One of the most famous examples was the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound back in 2011. It would have to be pretty amazing to be in The Situation Room when an event is taking place that will determine the course of history.

Our text is like a peak into the ultimate Situation Room. Here we see and hear the Father, Son and Spirit responding in real time to their plan as it unfolds. God is carrying out his plan. God is personally involved in carrying out his plan. 72 followers of Jesus were sent out on a short-term preaching mission and they have returned and they are rejoicing over what happened in the last few days. This event, while meaningful, does not seem on the face of it to be that big of a deal. When you think of the mountain peaks of the life of Christ, you think of feeding the 5,000, walking on water, raising Lazarus from the dead, and these sorts of events. If I asked you to name the highpoints of Christ's life, I doubt that any of us would have mentioned the short-term preaching trip of the 72 and yet, here is Jesus excited. In exposing us to the relationship that God enjoys as God, we are amazed and encouraged because the heart of God's plan is God's joy in our good.

Read Text:

In the beginning of his gospel account, Luke writes, *"it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."* (1.3-4)

The gospel of Luke is this orderly account. The historical evidence for the authenticity of this orderly account is overwhelming. That has not stopped people from claiming that the Bible is forged or corrupted but they cannot make those claims based on evidence. The facts do not support the attacks, but that does not stop them. But why such vitriol? Why do people spend so much time trying to attack the Scriptures? As we look at the life of Christ, we get our answer. You will see that Jesus is targeted and attacked with lies, smears, and innuendos. Because that is all that his opponents have. They cannot deny his miracles, so they claim that he does them in the power of Satan. They cannot deny the logic of his teaching and his explanation of the OT Scriptures, so they accuse him of being disrespectful of their traditions. They cannot deny his

exposure of their pride, hypocrisy and lies. So, they resort to intimidation and violence. But why such vitriol? Why do the religious leaders spend so much time trying to attack him? Simply put, Jesus is the king of the upside-down kingdom. He does not play by our rules. He makes the rules. He exposes what most people do not want to be confronted with. We are prideful and we do not want to admit that we are incapable of saving ourselves. We do not want to admit that we are spiritually bankrupt and are completely dependent on God for his mercy. This is hard for any person. It is particularly hard for those who are in positions of authority, respect, influence and who are educated and esteemed. Why do I need God when people treat me like I am one? How can I convince you not to trust in your abilities or accomplishments but to trust in Christ alone? God has to open your eyes to the reality of your condition and help you gain an honest assessment of your standing before him. But God is faithful to do that. And so many of you are a personal witness to this. You get it. You are humbled by God's grace to you. You cling to him and trust him alone for the salvation he offers. You do not live to make much of yourself but to point people to the real Hero and Savior. And when that happens, it is a thing of true beauty because it is true and life-giving.

We see, in the life and ministry of Jesus, how he lives this and explains this. The "powerful" who trust their power are weak. The "educated" who trust their knowledge are ignorant. The "wealthy" who trust their wealth are poor. Whereas, the weak who trust in Christ are strong, the uneducated who believe God's Word are wise, and the poor, whose hope is Christ are eternally secure. This is the heart of the plan of God. Jesus is going to build his church and kingdom with and through those who, in the eyes of this world are losers and who unapologetically order their lives by God's Word and not man's. Genuine followers of Christ will never "fit in". We feel that but at the same time, while we may not fit in, in this life, we are in, all in, where it really matters and this text is an incredible confirmation of that. I think you are going to be very encouraged.

1. **God is personally engaged in every step of his plan.** (21-22)

A. **Jesus rejoices in the Holy Spirit.** (21a)

Later in chapter 15 Jesus talks about the shepherd who rejoices when his lost sheep is found, and the woman rejoices when her lost coin is found. But here, Jesus is himself rejoicing in the Holy Spirit. That little preposition "in" can mean by means of, or with or around. I take this to mean that Jesus is rejoicing with the Holy Spirit and together they are sharing the excitement of what has just happened.

What triggers this response? Jesus tells the disciples to rejoice that their names are written in heaven. He tells them that this is their greatest joy because this is the greatest treasure. Then "in that same hour" Jesus rejoices! This is a real time fist-pumping, heart-thumping, soul-engaging response of Jesus along with the Holy Spirit. They (Jesus and the Holy Spirit) rejoice that these men are believing. They are getting it. The fact that their names are written in heaven means that they are going to be sharing eternity with Christ and He loves it! He loves it and rejoices in the Holy Spirit because the Spirit loves it! These men believed and are enjoying the

fruit of their belief. They did what Jesus asked them to do. They went out. They said what Jesus told them to say. And they experienced tangible evidence of God's grace in their lives and they were excited about this encouraging confirmation. Jesus is excited for them and he is excited with them. As such, the Godhead is excited. Most of us, if not all of us have been a disappointment to others, or ourselves. Many of us feel this desire to prove ourselves successful, to prove the haters wrong, to show to our siblings, or parents, or early authorities that we really are significant, etc. I am somebody. It's a hard truth to face that there are certain people who will never believe you or accept you. Beloved, that is okay. Your happiness does not come from them. Your faith, your love, your enjoyment of God is a trigger for God to rejoice. He is rejoicing because his plan for your salvation and inheritance is working.

This is an incredible event. Jesus is God. That is underscored by this very text. However, the fact that Jesus is God and he knows the plan of God and is directly involved in the carrying out of that plan, does not diminish his joy and wonder even as it happens. It's like this. Let's say that Jesus went to watch your basketball game. As God does he know how your game is going to go? Yes. He knows, let's say that your team is going to be down by 2 points with 10 seconds to go, that you are going to get open off a pick and that your teammate is going to pass you the ball and that with .5 seconds to go, you are going to turn and hit a 3-pointer and win the game. He knows all of that even before coming into the gym. But, when it happens in real time, and while your teammates are rushing the floor and the fans are losing their minds, what is Jesus doing? Does he smugly look at the person next to him and say, "I knew that would happen?" No. His knowledge of the future does not rob him of the pleasure of the moment. This is what I am trying to get you to see and feel. Christ is personally responding to these men even as the Godhead is personally responding with one another.

B. Jesus thanks and praises his Father. (21b-22)

In this short text Jesus refers to his Father as Father 5 times which really emphasizes the deeply personal relationship that God enjoys as God and how that beautiful relationship is the driving force behind and governing plan over all that God is doing. The deist's view of a creator God who made the earth as an experiment and is watching from a distance to see how it is going to turn out, is patently false. God is not distant. He is overall, but he is also personally involved in all. And all three, Father, Son and Spirit are in on it. The Father planned our redemption, the Son accomplished our redemption and the Spirit applies our redemption. The Father planned creation, the Son accomplished creation and the Spirit hovers over creation. The Father (in this text) is the Lord of heaven and earth who shares that authority and even title with the Son, who, will after his ascending, send the Spirit who shares some of that responsibility with us. Jesus, in (or along with) the Spirit is rejoicing and Jesus thanks the Father for what the Father is doing.

He is hiding his plan from the proud. Luke uses the words "*wise and understanding*" to describe those who are wise in their own eyes and in the eyes of the world. They are the ones who are large and in charge, and who, relying on their own understanding are deceived into think that they do not need Jesus, but in fact, stand in judgment of him. Think about this. The Father hides

“these things” (which I think is referring back to the truths that Jesus speaks of in v.16). The Father hides these from the “wise and understanding” because they are too proud to place themselves under his Word. Their failure to believe is not because they need more evidence or more education. They do not believe because they don’t want to believe so the truths are hidden from them. They not only do not want to believe, but there is a sense in which they cannot believe. If you listen to the teaching and preaching of God’s Word with your arms crossed, with your jaw set, your heart hard, your spirit bored, this should arouse fear because your condition is fearful. The first thing you need to do is to ask God to humble you and empty you of your pride and stubbornness.

Friend, we need discernment. We need to examine what is said by God’s Word. But discernment can be a cloak for pride. And when our discernment produces self-righteousness then we no longer have true discernment because we fail to see our own arrogance. God opposes the proud. He stiff arms the proud. But he reveals himself and his plans to the humble.

Jesus thanks the Father for hiding these things from the proud and revealing them to “little children”. He then affirms that by saying, “yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.” The term that Jesus uses for little children literally means “babies.” This word is only used 3 times in the gospels. A baby is completely dependent upon others. God reveals his plan to those who are completely dependent upon him. Jesus is thanking the Father for doing this even as he reveals what the plan is that the humble believe.

Here's the plan. (v.22) The Father is giving all things to the Son. The Father is giving his Son the authority to rule. Jesus is the Son and has been entrusted by the Father with the position and absolute power to rule alongside of the Father. Jesus is Sovereign over all. In fact, Jesus is even sovereign over salvation.

Look carefully at v. 22. *“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”* The Son has been entrusted with total authority by the Father. In order to truly love God, you have to love him and know him as Father. What makes God, Father? He has a Son. He loves his Son and has given his Son the power and authority that he has to rule. Therefore, to love God the Father is to love and trust the Son as King and Savior. In order to know the Son, you have to know him in relationship to the Father. What makes Jesus the Son of God? He has God as his Father. The two (along with the Spirit) are a package deal. You cannot have one without the other. This means that if you are going to really understand God the Father, then you will only do this through the Son. Otherwise, your understanding will be wrong. In fact, you cannot understand who God is, unless the Son chooses to reveal him to you. The Son is just like the Father. No wonder the Father told Peter, James and John to listen to him (9.35). What is God like? Look at and listen to Jesus. That is why we are studying Luke’s gospel.

2. God’s unfolding plan is for the good of his people. (23-24)

At this point, Jesus stops praying to the Father and he turns and talks directly to the 12. He transitions from thanking the Father for the plan is working out, but now he blesses the disciples. He wants to make certain that they realize what they are witnessing.

It's like this. Let's say that you work at a company with some people who recently were hired from India and Korea. And let's say that they discover football and start following the Lions. Now, they've only followed them for the last year and a half and one of them says to you, "I see why everyone likes them, they are pretty good." And you say, "You have no idea what we have been through for the last 65 years." If you have lived through that, then this would be all that much sweeter. That's what Jesus is saying to the disciples. Do you realize what you are seeing? What you see and believe is not only hidden from the powerful and proud, but you are seeing way more than what the prophets and kings who came before you ever knew. You are blessed! You are enjoying the favor of God because you are witnesses of how God's unfolding plan is being carried out and it is happening right in front of your eyes. I want you to see this, that you may know how blessed you are.

Look at v.23. What is the blessing these disciples are receiving? It is spiritual sight. They are seeing what others do not. I want to point out 3 things.

A. God reveals things in stages.

He did not tell the kings and prophets everything then, but enough for them to trust him. Now the disciples get to see how so much of this has come together. But there's more. There is always more. This is true for us. We live in amazing times. We can look back on the entire Bible, the history of Israel, the life of Christ and the birth and expansion of the church. But there's more. What is coming is the culmination of it all. Stay on your tiptoes. Secondly,

B. Everything that God reveals is for our good pleasure.

What were some of the things that the disciples got to see? Jesus! His miracles. His life, death, resurrection and ascension. They also got to hear him talk to the Father. What a moment this was! They got to eavesdrop on a conversation that Jesus was having with his Father. Jesus was revealing the Father to them to bolster their faith and cause them to long for eternity way more where they will see way more.

C. More revelation is designed for more worship.

The more you know about the plans and the ways of God, the fuller your heart should be to worship God. We should think deeply about these things so that we are amazed even more by God so that we will worship him with greater intensity and trust him with more certainty. Great thoughts of God are given so that we will enjoy great love and affection for God.

Lord's Table