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Purposeful Planning for our Lives: From Crisis to Confidence through Christ

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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Not to long ago, I went to the grocery store only to discover that food prices were rising. There are many reasons for the constant rise in food prices (e.g., weather patterns that have affected crops and an increase in demand for food from other countries); however, experts declare that careful and deliberate planning (e.g., using coupons and reading circulars to determine when food goes on sale) will definitely help families to avoid a crisis in the future. When I learned about the value of coupons, I went to get some immediately! The book of Exodus tells the story of Joseph's involvement in intentional or purposeful planning in helping to prevent a crisis of starvation in Egypt (Genesis 41:53-57). Joseph used his administrative gifts and the opportunity that was given to him by God to overcome a personal crisis (e.g., he was released from prison because he could interpret dreams) and to prevent an economic crisis for the entire country (e.g., famine). Joseph emerged from a person

in personal crisis to a confident leader in a country as a result of his willingness to embrace God's purpose for his life.

Crises affect all human beings. Like Joseph, we must plan to walk into the grand and noble purpose that God has for our lives in spite of our crises. Unfortunately, I know many people who accidentally stumble into or outright avoid God's purpose for their lives because of crises. I know some people who refuse to preach because they are "too busy" with crises to answer God's call on their lives. Others in crisis refuse to thank God through worship and praise; however, they are often the first to come to God asking for another favor or blessing. Even though God responds to crises in our lives, the God of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33) does not want us to live in a constant state of emotional, psychological, financial or physical crisis. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and living in a

perpetual state of crisis often prohibits us from identifying, realizing or maximizing the gifts (e.g., singing, preaching, teaching, organizing) and opportunities that God has given us. Even if crises and confusion have affected our lives, Christ will guide and sustain us. Paul said: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (2 Corinthians 4:8-10)." When we make plans to embrace God purpose in our lives, Christ will lead us from crisis to confidence.