



## In the Beginning ... The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

May 2, 2021

*"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."* –

Genesis 11:4

For centuries, men have conned themselves by thinking they could determine their destinies apart from God. At times acting as though they can force the outcome, even if God opposed the decision. As William Ernest Henley boasted in his poem, "Invictus," "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." Men assume that they can call the shots. What they forget is that one little virus, one drunk driver, one "freak" accident, is all it takes to end their plans.

### A Little Background to the Story ...

- The Tower of Babel occurred within \_\_\_\_\_ after the Flood
- Humanity was United by a \_\_\_\_\_
- Most of the People lived in an area called \_\_\_\_\_
- The Tower was \_\_\_\_\_ in Nature

### The Implications ... Genesis 11:1-9

#### I. Two Purposes ...

- To Make a \_\_\_\_\_ for Ourselves
- To Provide \_\_\_\_\_ for Ourselves

#### II. Need to be \_\_\_\_\_ upon No one Else ...

#### III. The Need for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ leads to the Moral Degeneration of the Soul

### What Should We Ask Ourselves?

1. To what extent do I embody the \_\_\_\_\_?
2. In what areas have experienced the \_\_\_\_\_?
3. In what areas have I chosen the \_\_\_\_\_?

## Truth for Life

For the week of May 2, 2021

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Jesus said in Luke 9:23 "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" What's your first response to the statement that as a follower of Christ you are called to "deny yourself"? What does that mean? What might that look like ...
  - ... at work?
  - ... with your friends?
  - ... at home?
2. The story of the Tower of Babel is a story that introduces us to Pride and its affects upon our lives. Read Genesis 11:1-9 again, in a few translations. What did the people do? Why did they do it? (vs. 4) What was God's response?
3. Read the following verses that identify the conflict between man's choices and God's plan or purpose for man.
 

Proverbs 19:21    Proverbs 16:9    Job 42:2-3    James 4:13-15

How do we get to the place where we choose to plan our life disregarding the plans that God may have for us? What attitude have we developed? How is that attitude contrary to our ability to "follow Him?"
4. The Bible speaks about the critical nature of humility. Read the passages below.
 

Proverbs 22:4    Colossians 3:12    Proverbs 11:2  
James 4:6    Proverbs 15:33    Micah 6:8

What stands out to you in the verses above? What does humility enable us to do as it relates to learning? As it relates to following? As it relates to being healthy in our relationship with Christ?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - a. How can believers fight pride and grow in humility?
  - b. How can we as believers develop humility? Or work toward growing in humility?
  - c. Should Christians aim for success in their jobs? How does humility fit in with striving for success?
  - d. Why is the cross central to Christianity?



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## A Little Background to the Story ...

- The Tower of Babel occurred within **150 years** after the Flood
- Humanity was United by a **Common Language**
- Most of the People lived in an area called **Shinar**
- The Tower was **Religious** in Nature

## The Implications ... Genesis 11:1-9

- I. Two Purposes ...
  - To Make a **Name** for Ourselves
  - To Provide **Security** for Ourselves
- II. Need to be **Dependent** upon No one Else ...
- III. The Need for **Significance** and **Security** leads to the Moral Degeneration of the Soul

## What Should We Ask Ourselves?

1. To what extent do I embody the **Attitude of Babel**?
2. In what areas have experienced the **Judgment of Babel**?
3. In what areas have I chosen the **Alternative to Babel**?

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