

Title: Really, God? *This* is Your Plan?!?!

Date: December 30/31, 2017

Speaker: Jeff Percival

Big Idea: God works in surprising ways (ie., being born as a baby, accomplishing salvation through crucifixion), and Jesus asks us to do counterintuitive things as his followers (ie., love our enemies, embrace servanthood). If we're not careful, we can let our preconceived ideas of what God *should* do cause us to miss what he's *actually doing*.

Passage: Isaiah 55:8-9

Discuss It:

1. What expectations do you have for the year 2018?
2. **Read 1 Kings 19:1-4.** Elijah has been on a mission to lead his nation back toward God. Now it seems he has failed and that his enemies will soon kill him. Has a difficult time in life ever caused you to give up on a dream, lose hope, or question how life could go on?
3. **Read 1 Kings 19:8-18.** Why do you think the text points out that God wasn't present in the fire and the earthquake, but that he was present in a whisper? What did Elijah learn about how God works?
4. **Read Isaiah 55:8-9.** In his message this past weekend, Jeff said, "*Don't miss what God could be doing in your life because you expect or want him to do it in a different way.*" How has God surprised you in the past? What expectations might you be holding on to so tightly that it could cause you to miss something God wants to do in your life?
5. At the end of his message, Jeff mentioned how spiritual disciplines and community with other believers can help to keep us aware of God's activity. What step do you need to take this year to stay more in tune with God?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?