Good morning Friend,

When last were you surprised and possibly saddened because your ministry plans were suddenly changed? You were confidently moving toward a plan for which you were well-prepared . . . you were prayed-up . . . your finances were in place . . . you were 'ready to go.' But suddenly and unexpectedly your plans were intercepted. Two illustrations come to mind . . . one from our own experience, and one from the Scriptures.

EVIE AND HER SHINGLES

Evie and I were on the way to a ministry assignment in South Africa. We had three flights between here and there: Firstly, a flight from Tampa to Chicago; Secondly, a flight from Chicago to London; Thirdly, a flight from London to Jo-burg. But in flight, Evie started to feel ill. The further we traveled, the worse she felt. When we arrived in South Africa, she had a rash on the upper left side of her back. She was examined by a doctor who convinced her that she had shingles. It wasn't long before she had a horrendous pain on her back, in her armpit, and on her upper front body. She had a capable doctor who treated her with three prescriptions. She said that Evie had a severe case of the shingles. Evie's pain was difficult to watch. After almost a week in bed, the decision was made for the two of us to return to the States. As soon as we got home, she was under the care of our family doctor. She spent another week in bed with a steady, perpetual level of pain and discomfort. Finally she started to feel a bit better, day after day. But now, almost six weeks later, she is doing well with only an occasional jolt of pain.

Plans disrupted? Oh yes. We traveled a long way but needed to return to the States . . . even before our major ministry assignment had begun. Were we disappointed? Yes. Were we perplexed? Yes.

PAUL AND HIS 'CLOSED DOOR'

The historical event and explanation is told in Acts 16:6-10: *Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went to Troas. During the night, Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we* (including Luke, the author of Acts) *got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

This paragraph states that all three Persons of the Godhead were involved. The **Holy Sprit** detained them. The **Spirit of Jesus** re-directed them. And they concluded that **God** had a different plan for them. It was definitely God's plan. It was not a mistake. It was a Godly intervention.

There is the story of Evie and Lareau, as stated above.

Also the story of Paul and his travel companions.

And from time to time, you might have a similar story to tell.

Let’s always remember that the Godhead is very interested and involved in our lives and ministries. Let’s be ready to accept the adjustments and re-adjustments that God brings our way. He is good . . . and He is Sovereign . . . and his interventions are carefully sent our ways.

Be encouraged,

Lareau Lindquist

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