

Our Father Knows Best

In the last two NEWSLETTER articles, we've looked at instances in the bible where it is obvious that God had a hand in what happened, and in doing so, saw to it that His will was accomplished. Making plans is fine, but accepting God's changes to those plans is paramount. HE KNOWS BEST.

I've shared my story with you, but pardon me while I go over it again. You probably have a story very similar: making plans, only to have them changed. Some say it's fate, some say the changes were accidental. I hold to the belief that it all involves divine intervention.

I had plans for my life. I was going to marry my high school girlfriend. I was going to go to M.C.C. for two years and then go to the University of Texas and major in business, with a minor in accounting. I would graduate and become a successful businessman and be able to afford lots of "stuff." Fortunately, none of those things happened.

There used to be a routine on TV's "Hee Haw" that was funny, but all too true. Somebody would say something that had happened to them that many would look as bad. And that's what those listening would say – "That's BAD." However, the person that it had happened to would say "NO, that's GOOD" and give a reason that the seemingly bad thing was good. Unintended consequences. It would go back and forth – "That's GOOD," "NO, that's BAD." More unintended consequences. Eventually, the thing that was originally looked upon as bad turned out to be VERY good.

That's how my life has been. I broke up with my high school girlfriend. I didn't finish two years at M.C.C. and go on to U.T. God put John Featherston into my life. He was a friend from church and he, when he graduated, went to Lubbock Christian College. He encouraged me to go, and I did. At L.C.C., God placed Toni into my life, we've been married 43 years, and God has given us three great children and 7 even greater grandchildren. Again, at L.C.C., I was exposed to the teaching of Les Perrin and Dick Laird, and my educational focus changed entirely. I'm not a successful businessman, but I am a teacher and a preacher of God's word. I had plans that I just knew would make me happy. God had other plans for me and put me right here where I belong, happier than I ever could have been following my own course for my life.

God DOES work together all things for the good of those who love him. (**Romans 8:28**) We do make plans, but God DOES direct our steps. (**Proverbs 16:19**) This is how the prophet Isaiah puts it in **Isaiah 48:17**:

"This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.'"

When things don't go as planned, keep this in mind: God is directing you to be just where He wants you to be. And He will accomplish His will in you, regardless of any plans you may have for yourself.

—Johnny Stephens

