



Embracing the Unexpected

It was the first full day back to the office in January and I was filled with enthusiasm for the new year. The next day, our team would be meeting offsite to work on a new strategic plan with the typical accompanying goals that help us stay accountable and measure progress. The

anticipation of new year planning had a certain glow about it.

That day held exciting promise—until I was met with the unexpected, a surprise event that upended the existing plans and put into motion a series of all new, entirely different actions. The planned team day out would have to wait. The enthusiasm I had was dimmed; I felt the wind in my sails had been brought to a standstill.

Have you ever had this happen to you? Of course you have. Life doesn't always go according to plan for any of us. We are challenged in these moments to remember that our God is faithful and to listen for and respond to him—for his plan, the better plan, the best plan.

I had a choice to make – enter a downward spiral and take my team along with me, or reorient my mind and heart to what God was doing. This quarter's readings have been filled with stories of God's people in circumstances of disappointment, confusion, doubt, and even failure. The Lord speaking to Job out of the storm should be enough to remind us that God is God, and we are not. Our plans are changed, become disrupted, even fail, but God is not moved. He is faithful and his plans are perfect. Job's life did not end in despair, but with abundance provided by his all-powerful God. Similarly, David's life demonstrated the ups and downs, the ebbs and flows of life, but through it all, the faithfulness of God. David knew that no matter what challenge he faced, God was by his side and would never leave him. He knew that God's plans for his life were good, and that everything would be for God's glory. Despite David's imperfections and mistakes, God described him as a man after his own heart because of his unwavering trust and devotion. The Psalms David wrote comfort me whenever my plans are upended. Just as did David, I can pour out my heart to God and declare his faithfulness. I can wait for God to reveal his perfect plan for me and for Scripture Union.

When we remind ourselves about the truth of God and his faithfulness, we can face disruption with confidence and trust. The wind is back in my sails because I know God has a destination in mind far greater than what I can ask or imagine. We'll continue to plan, remembering that it is God who is charting the course. You can too.

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