

The Design Plans Have Changed

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INTRODUCTION:

When life **changes** and every thing that is familiar is stripped away, God is who we are left with. When events of life and the routine of life that is so familiar leaves you lost, we begin to press God for direction. Now, life takes on a different shape and form. It may be while we are in the routine of life in the back side of a desert, like Moses, tending Jethro's sheep; it may be in a prison cell, like Paul, where you feel closed off from the world and your only out is to begin to write letters, or it may be while you are in preparation, like Esther, being made over to accomplish something that would be "fit for a queen." There is redemption in all of this.



GOD MAKES THE PIECES FIT (Proverbs 8:30):

In my daily Bible reading, I'm always asking God to show me something I have never seen before in the Word. While reading in Proverbs which is a part of my daily read, there is a call for wisdom in chapter 8. The verse that struck me was verse 30 stating that after He gave birth to the oceans, settling the mountains in place, then He gave the sea its boundaries, so the water would not overstep His command. When He marked out the foundation of the earth He stated, "I, wisdom was the craftsman at His side" (Proverbs 8:30). ***A craftsman makes all the pieces fit. God is the artist. He is the artisan.***

CHANGE COMES THROUGH ADVERSITY:

- Moses was called to service at the "burning bush." Moses had grown up in Egypt in the palace of the Pharaoh. When he was about 40 years old, he ran away from Egypt because he had killed an Egyptian. Moses spent another 40 years in the back side of the desert. It was here that God worked on Moses and taught him what he would need to know to be a leader, a leader to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3:1-6).

***Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.
— Elizabeth Barrett Browning***

- Paul was saying he counted all things but loss in order that he would please Jesus. He knew that there was nothing valuable in himself, in his talents, or in his abilities unless God was behind them. We must come to the point where we surrender all things. We can't pick and choose. We can't be in charge at all. We must surrender all—that means **all (Philippians 3:7, 8)**!
- Esther first experienced adversity in being an orphan. Yet God provided loving nurture for her through her cousin Mordecai. Her utter trust in the sovereign God helped her to place all her human resources in God's hands, and as a result the Jews, God's people, were ultimately preserved (**Esther 2:7**).

SUBMISSION AND OBEDIENCE BRING CHANGE:

Jeremiah 18:2 . . . Jeremiah was told to go to a potter's house, where he watched a potter fashioning a pot from clay. Because the vessel was not suitable for what the potter intended, he had to remold it into something other than what he had first designed. **The design plans had changed.**

Our submission to God as the One who molds both our character and our service to Him determines to a large extent what He can do with us. A lack of commitment to God can frustrate His original purpose for us. God remains free to change His intentions for our lives. If He has planned goodness and blessings for us and if we rebel against Him, He may then shape us into pots destined for destruction.

There is a story of a cleaning lady who would do cleanup for a sculptor. Every evening she would sweep up the bits and pieces from that day's work. She finally saw the end results. She said, "How did you know that Abraham Lincoln was in that rock."

He said, "I knew what I had in mind while I was chiseling."

Why does God keep changing the design plans for our lives? Because God knows what He has in mind in making all the pieces fit. ***He is the craftsman, He is the artist, He is the artisan!***

***I know God will not give me anything I can't handle,
I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.
— Mother Teresa***