

IT'S A SMALL WORLD



Proverbs 16:9 "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."

You know, sometimes things just don't go the way you think they're going to. Your plans and ideas just slip through your fingers like dust. Oh, you may try to catch them on the way down but they're gone and there is nothing you can do about it. Against your own free will you are pushed into a place you would not have chosen; a dark valley.

It's interesting how focused I can become on myself at these times. In my world of pain, the world narrows, everything else seems unimportant and then God gives me an opportunity to remember that I am part of a larger picture; one that is inclusive of me but not only me. I am also reminded that while I am going through my own dark valley the world goes on outside enjoying the sunshine. Not that they don't know or care where I am of course, but life does go on. After being out of "the world" for a few days I am wheeled back into it slowly but surely. I find that things look different but the same, smell new but are familiar.

I've told my friends before that getting sick is just the Lord's way of slowing you down for a while and giving you a chance to rest and listen for His voice. (There's no scripture to back that up so don't try to find it.) Of course, all that is easy to say to someone else, but not so easy to experience for you. I come from a long, I'm saying really long, line of women who fight against weakness of any kind. God has to allow some major stuff to get us to slow down and finally lets something like acute appendicitis to enter that small, small world. Don't get me wrong, God isn't punishing me; He loves me, but it is an opportunity for me to slow down for a minute; take a deep breath and look around like I tell everyone else to do.

The things that I have on my list to do mean next to nothing to God because He has His own plans:

Jeremiah 29:11 "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'"

God wants me to see that my small world is very different than the world He designed, created, and has plans for. Mine is full of my plans, hopes, and dreams while His is full of, well, not mine.

There isn't anyone (maybe in the whole world) that hasn't heard the Disney song "It's a Small World" and probably been driven nearly crazy by the repetitive and tiny voices that sing it. Reading the words, however, I thought about how true it is. I don't think I ever really paid attention and listened to them:

It's a world of laughter
A world of tears
It's a world of hopes
And a world of fears
There's so much that we share
That it's time we're aware
It's a small world after all

There is a saying, "Man plans; God laughs" that I think is pretty accurate. He knows how puny my thoughts, ways, and plans are and once in a while, gently, reminds me that there is much more than I can see with my human eyes. I can get very concentrated on my small world and the plans I have; they consume my days. But, I am thankful for the times when God opens my eyes to the larger panorama; the one where it's not just me and mine but Him and His.

Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

A special thanks to all of you who were sending cards and praying for me while I was in the hospital this past week. My appendicitis was one of the worst the doctor had seen but could have been much worse. God is so good isn't He!!

Blessings on your week!

Georgia