

GOD'S TIMING IS PERFECT

"The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah." Jeremiah 31:31 (NIV)

The word "time" popped out and I'm expanding it to "timing". Jeremiah was told the time was coming but not given a specific time. The time didn't come until hundreds of years later. That's a mighty long time. I don't think I would have waited, and would have wanted to change the plan. All of us have our own experiences of time/timing: Not enough, too much, too slow, too fast, good, bad, inconvenient or a combination. We make plans and set the timing. Then something happens which totally changes everything.

Here is a quote from the devotional book, Jesus Calling. It's written with Jesus talking. "Much, much stress results from wanting to make things happen before their times have come. One of the main ways I assert my sovereignty is in the timing of events. If you want to stay close to Me and do things My way, ask Me to show you the path forward moment by moment. Instead of dashing headlong toward your goal, let Me set the pace. Slow down, and enjoy the journey in My Presence."

As like many of you, my Christian journey started when I was an infant, washed in the waters of Baptism and grew up with church, Sunday School, confirmation and youth group as integral parts of my life. Jesus has been my companion and Savior my entire life. This, however, doesn't mean I never questioned plan changes or timing and asked God, "Why?".

Many of you can relate to sudden changes with the timing seeming to be all wrong, but then turning into blessings in disguise. Here are some examples from my life that changed the course of my plans: My parents moved from Michigan City to Berwyn while I was in college, which messed up my summer job plans. My sister and brother-in-law invited me to live with them in Michigan City as long as I wanted, which ended up to be several years. When living and teaching in Michigan City, I stayed a summer with my parents in Berwyn while taking classes at Concordia River Forest. That's when I met my parents' neighbor, Dick. We dated, married, were blest with the birth of Jenn and had almost 50 years of a wonderful marriage before God called him home. Their move turned out to be a blessing.

We had moved to LaGrange Park when Jenn was six. We had a Lutheran church a few blocks away as well as a public school just down the block. I had enrolled Jenn in Forest Road School and planned to change our church membership - we were all set. As you guessed, our plans changed when Jenn's first grade teacher at Redeemer Lutheran School in Cicero told us about St John's Church and School in LaGrange. That became our church home and Jenn's school. What a blessing. For us, God's plans and timing were perfect!

We pray: Christ be my leader by night as by day, Safe through the darkness for He is the way. Gladly I follow, my future His care. Darkness is day-light when Jesus is there. Amen (LSB 861 vs1)

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