

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"A Time of Reckoning" 3/6/24

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

We make our plans, everything is laid out, schedule is posted, people are contacted, it's a go. Then it isn't. Yes, it was a sure-fire plan, it looked good on paper, but then it rained, the plane was delayed, someone didn't get the memo and made different plans. Your house burns down, your spouse dies, you get fired, you're lonely, you're angry, you're hurt, you lose hope. You try to hang on to your faith, but it's difficult, your world seems to have ended. Now what?

There comes a time we have to face facts; this was our plan and God had His plan. Who's right, who's wrong, what happened, why didn't it work, I was just trying to help God, He's so busy.

Again, I think of the prodigal son who had a great idea. "I'll take my inheritance and travel the world while I'm young, I'll sing and dance and play the ponies." Soon he's running low on cash and then a famine hits the land, he had not planned for this. The dough is gone, and he has to go to work. The only job he can find is feeding pigs, ugh. Unclean critters, but he needs a job. The owner of the herd can't afford to feed him, all there is to eat, ick, is the slop he's feeding the pigs. For everybody there eventually comes a day of reckoning.

From play boy to pig boy, this was not on his bucket list. His faith and teachings remain foundational, even here among the pigs. He recalls from the Psalm, "The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." (Psalm 32:8) Maybe dad will take him back, even if just as a servant.

There is that moment we remember God is with us in the ashes, through high water, in the dark. Even here even now. God comes to comfort and to give wisdom, to guide and protect. We manage to make a mess when we try to create our own good luck, make our dreams come true, while we do it our way. When all goes wrong, God is waiting for our return to Him.

During this season of Lent, let us remember Jesus' faith as He journeyed to Jerusalem. This was the plan, and this was the way. Knowing what awaited Him, Jesus continued on the path laid out. This is love, God's love for you and me. Thy will be done, we pray. Not mine, but Yours oh Lord.

Please pray with me:

God of grace, thank You for this story where we can see ourselves, our faults and foibles, and Your love and grace. Thank You for Your will, help us to serve You in all we do, in all of our choices, in how we love and serve others. God, please establish our steps.

Amen.