

Loving in the Red Zone – Change of Plans

**In his heart a man plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps – Proverbs 16:9**

“Great!” I thought as I looked at my watch. “I’m one hour from my boarding time which leaves me plenty of time to go through security and relax before my flight.” I started the fairly easy check-in process then a message I wasn’t expecting flashed on the self-check in kiosk: “Your itinerary has changed. Press continue to view details.”

I hesitated before I pressed “continue” not sure of what the “change” might be. After a few seconds of deliberating, I pressed the screen and viewed with mild irritation my new itinerary. My cancelled evening flight had been replaced with an afternoon flight for the next day that would have gotten me home 7 hours later (a full 24 hours after my original return time).

After viewing the itinerary for what seemed like minutes (but was probably only about 30 seconds), I blinked perhaps hoping that my original itinerary would reappear. When it didn’t, I then spoke to the ticket agent in my nicest, non-panicked voice. On the inside, I was screaming, “I’ve got to get back to Dallas tonight! That new itinerary ain’t gonna work for me!”

The ticket agent smiled at me when I told her my name and she was able to pull up the flights. I smiled back because I was trying to not let the frustration show in my face or voice. Silently, though, I was praying for God to help me. I stood as patiently as I could and prayed that I would get a seat. Just as quickly as I prayed it, she said, “You’re in luck. Another airline has some seats available. Let me call and get you one.”

As she handed me my ticket and directed me to the other airline, she restated that I was lucky. I couldn’t resist turning around and telling her that it wasn’t luck

but God's favor. Even though I was headed home, I'll admit that I wasn't too happy about the change. The thought of having to switch terminals at DFW Airport wasn't my idea of fun for a Sunday night, but I soon realized it was a blessing in disguise. The new flight left ½ hour later than the original flight, but it got me back to Dallas 1 hour earlier. I had to switch terminals and wait for my checked baggage, but I was still home sooner.

Has God ever done that to you? You've planned your life only to have things change when you least expect or want them. Do you give God an attitude or do you trust that he knows what's best? Not only with my recent trip but also with other areas of my life, I've found that going with instead of resisting the change (especially when it comes to God's plans) is the best way to go!



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