

I Had Plans

The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations (Psalm 33:10–11).

Lord, I had plans, good plans, well-prayed about, godly plans. I was doing everything right, at least to the best of my knowledge and ability. Now everything has changed. My dreams have vanished from my sight and my hopes lie in ruins at the feet of my sorrow. It's a whole new day, a day I never planned for. So what now, Lord?

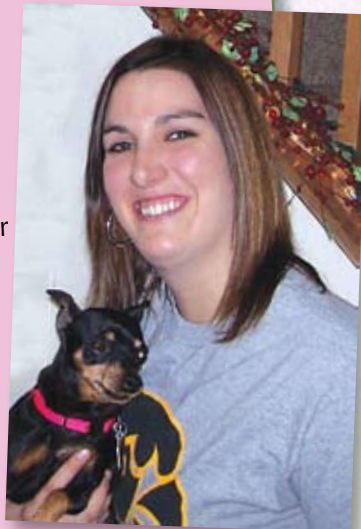
From way back, You have made good plans for people. You laid out Eden's perfect pathways for the footsteps of a man and a woman created in Your image. Even after sin stalked human will and slaughtered the earth's serenity, You did not withdraw Your good plans. Instead, You told Adam and Eve You would send the world a Savior. Through the prophets, You declared Your plans again and again. Then You did what You said You would do. You sent the world a Savior, Jesus Christ. During His earthly ministry, He promised us His Spirit, and on that great day called Pentecost, He sent His Spirit.

I see a definite pattern here. You say it and You do it. You promise it and You make it happen. You've said. You've promised! You will take care of Your people. Maybe right now, Lord, at this moment, that's all I need to know.

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Spotlight on Mary Newton

It was sad to leave all the excitement of the Sioux Falls LWML convention, but learning to rely on Christ our King (our ROCK!) helped prepare me for all the rollercoaster experiences that followed. My husband and I decided to pack and move from one side of Iowa to the other side to look for new jobs. We found a house in my childhood hometown, giving us the chance to attend the church I grew up in, where Chris and I now serve as youth leaders. We were also blessed with a new addition to our family — a puppy — who tries our patience as we all learn to live together! Every morning my convention "prayer rock" serves as a reminder for me to rely on Jesus throughout my day.



Esther – Woman of Courage

The Jewish Queen Esther found herself, reluctantly, in the right place at the right time. Prince Haman's genocidal plot against Jews living in King Ahasuerus' kingdom came to Esther's attention through her uncle, Mordecai. Esther, whose position depended upon the king's continued favor, hesitated to confront him. She risked death in approaching the king as she had not been invited. Mordecai challenged her fear by reminding her: *And who knows but that you have come to royal position for a time such as this?* (Esther 4:14)

Unplanned-for situations and unexpected experiences, even frightening situations, often land us exactly where God wants us.

How might you where you are, and who you are right now, make you just the person for a time such as this?

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Quotable Quotes

"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." 1 Peter 2:12

[Jesus said,] "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20b

"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare." Mark Twain

For more information, check out ***Impressions***, the newsletter for Young Women, at lwml.org/resources/young_women.