

## WHEN YOU JUST CAN'T GET THAT PACKAGE OPEN

12th in a Series on Ephesians called, "Messages to the Misfits"

Passage: Ephesians 3:1-6

In the old movie, *School of Rock*, Jack Black plays frustrated and discouraged wannabe rock guitarist, Dewey. Dewey is out of money, about to be kicked out of his apartment and he is replaced as the lead guitarist in his band. In desperation he takes a job as a substitute teacher at a prestigious private school under false pretenses. It is a job he is eminently unqualified for. In a key scene he is sitting at the teacher's desk in front of the class, doing nothing, while the kids sit at their desks, also doing nothing. They voice their expectation that he should teach them something. Finally his frustration boils over. He says, "You want me to teach you something. Okay, here's a lesson for you. Give up. Just quit. Because in this life you can't win. Yeah, you can try, but in the end you're just going to lose big time. Do yourself a favor and just give up."

Have you ever felt like that? Last year I bought a new razor. It came in that hard plastic packaging that is designed to defy any and all attempts to open it. I attacked it from every angle possible, using every stratagem I could think of, to absolutely no effect. This thing was absolutely impervious. The Navy should make ships out of this stuff because it's lightweight and nothing can damage it. Go ahead, fire anti-ship missiles at this plastic destroyer of ours. Do your worst, and when the smoke clears I have no doubt it will still be there undented and unharmed. I began coming up with all sorts of uses for this stuff. For instance, in addition to ships they could make coffins out of it. Bury people in it and the bodies would be protected for eternity, because nothing is getting inside that packaging. I was way more successful at dreaming up uses for that packaging than I was at actually retrieving my new razor from the iron grip of that plastic. Eventually I began to despair that I would ever defeat that frustrating package. It was discouraging. I wanted to just give up. Dewey's advice seemed sound to me.

Of much greater importance, there have also been moments in my life when I felt that discouragement about things of significantly more importance. I've felt that when it came to parenting, in my efforts to be a pastor, and often in trying to help people deal with issues in their lives while making little or no progress. I've felt it in regard to my own failings as a follower of Jesus. I have known fellow followers of Jesus who have been stymied by terribly discouraging circumstances, including job struggles, financial hardships, relational disappointments and serious health issues. In some cases, their situations seemed literally hopeless. I've seen brothers and sisters in Christ experiencing unrelenting discouragement. I see some of the young guys who are trying to find their path to launch a career, and I think it could be very discouraging in today's world.

As hard as some of those things are, I've never known anyone who has had to deal with circumstances as discouraging as those the apostle Paul faced on a pretty much continual basis. The trials he endured were truly daunting, including multiple imprisonments, repeated riots, several beatings, one episode where a mob tried to kill him by throwing rocks at him - and they

injured him so grievously they thought they had succeeded. At the time he wrote this letter to the Ephesian Christians he was incarcerated, and had been for several years.

Despite all that had happened to him and was continuing to happen to him, Paul soldiered on. He didn't give in to despair. He didn't become a frustrated, bitter man. With optimism and joy he kept serving God and made the best of the situation he was in, and he focused on praising God and trying to help other people. None of us are likely to deal with the kind of hardships Paul went through, but we will face discouraging days. In the verses we will consider today, we will get some reminders of what enabled Paul to overcome his unenviable situation. Let's look at Ephesians 3:1-7.

## EXPOSITION

### KNOW THE WHO

Paul says in this section. "For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles." Wait a minute. Paul was a prisoner, but he was a prisoner of the Roman authorities. Jesus didn't put him in jail. He was there because after a mob tried to kill him the Romans arrested him.

Paul was in prison because though the Roman governor, a guy named Felix, knew he was innocent he wouldn't let him out because he wanted a bribe. Tacitus, the Roman historian, described Felix as, "a master of cruelty and lust who exercised the powers of a king in the spirit of a slave." So why did Paul call himself "the prisoner of Christ Jesus"?

Paul saw himself as "the prisoner of Christ Jesus" because he knew that the Jewish leaders who hated him, the crooked Roman governor Felix, the Roman soldiers who guarded him, and Nero who kept him cooling his heels in chains, could not do anything unless Jesus let them do it. Do you remember what he said about Jesus at the end of chapter 1? In 1:22 he said of Jesus, "God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be the head over everything." In verse 21 he said he was "far above all rule and authority." In other words, no matter how powerful those opponents of his might be, they could not do anything to him that God did not allow them to do. He was saying that he was a prisoner because at that moment that is what Jesus wanted him to be!

Do you recall what Jesus said to Pilate when he stood before him on trial for his life? In John 19:10 after Jesus had not responded to him Pilate said, "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Don't you marvel at how ludicrous that statement? This little tinpot man is saying to the one through whom all things were created, the one who is over all authority, "I have power over you." I'm sure Jesus was thinking in mock fear, "Oooh, you're so powerful and so scary. I'm shaking in my sandals in terror." One day recently when we were with our granddaughters, Ella wanted to play that she was the Ella Monster, who would come up behind me and roar in order to scare me. I, of course, being a good Yapaw, played along. But I'll let you in on a secret: Ella doesn't scare me even a little bit. She's just not intimidating at all. But she has a better chance of intimidating me than Pilate did of intimidating the King of Kings.

Jesus shot right back in verse 11, “You would have no power over me if it were not given you from above.” I would paraphrase that, “Dude, Get real. You’ve got nothing.” Jesus was saying he was not in Pilate’s hands. He was in the Father’s hands, and Pilate could only do what the Father had already decided should happen. That is exactly where Paul was.

Paul was very much aware of the fact that if Jesus wanted him out of jail, he would get out of jail, no matter what Nero thought or did. Paul knew what happened to Peter in Acts 12. Herod at one point had ordered the execution of the apostle James, the brother of John. This scored points with the influential folk in Israeli society. Seeing that this produced good PR for him, Herod decided to keep going and score more points because the Jewish people over whom he ruled generally despised him. He arrested Peter with the intent of executing him, too. The night before his scheduled trial, Peter was sound asleep, bound with chains between two soldiers, while two more soldiers stood guard outside his cell. In the middle of the night an angel arrived and woke him up. Then as his chains fell off of him, the angel told him to get dressed. The angel led Peter out of the cell and out of the jail to freedom, walking right past guards as doors opened automatically. It was the ultimate get out of jail free card.

Paul knew that if the Lord Jesus wanted to, he could do exactly the same thing for him that he had done for Peter. He was very clear that he was in prison because that’s right where the Lord wanted him. So he really was the prisoner of Christ Jesus. In Philippians 1:12-18 you can see him thinking about why Jesus might want him there. He’s looking for reasons, and he has some good ones.

Why would Jesus choose to rescue Peter from prison, but not Paul? Paul had some guesses. However, I don’t think he ever knew the real reason. Maybe we still don’t. But I am personally thankful for this letter. Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians were all written during the same period while Paul was a prisoner. I love those books. For 2000 years people have gained insight, understanding and wisdom about God’s grace and his will for their lives from those letters. And they almost surely would not have been written had Paul not been in prison.

Sometimes in my more discouraging moments, I think, “I should not have gone into full time ministry as a pastor.” I recall that I never really wanted to do that, and I sometimes think I was right, because I don’t think I’m very good at it. At the other end of the spectrum, even recently someone said to me, “I don’t understand why you don’t have a big church.” The answer to my doubts and to that friend’s comments is the same. Whatever discouragements I have, if God had not wanted me to be a pastor he could have and would have made sure I wasn’t. And whatever the merits or lack of merits I may have, I am in the size of ministry I am in because that’s right where God wants me. I am the small church pastor of Christ Jesus. If he didn’t want that, he would have moved the pieces around and had me do something else.

When Laurie and I went through the disappointment of being fired from our previous ministry because they didn’t think I was good enough, this was a huge help to me. I needed to look at the

situation from the perspective of what God was doing, not what people were doing. If God did not want me to be removed from that ministry it would not have happened.

I recently read an article that recalled an historic event now nearly forgotten. People who have grown up in the past 30 years cannot understand how much of an astounding feat this was and what enormous impact it had. The event was the victory over the Soviet team and subsequent gold medal of the US Olympic hockey team now almost 40 years ago in 1980. The article referred to how the players on that team feared the coach, Herb Brooks, and how they often did not understand or like what he made them do. But one of them, Ken Morrow, who went on to star in the NHL, said he did not believe that team could have won with any other coach. One of them, Rob McClanahan, said of Brooks, “When he passed away there were hundreds of players at his funeral, and every one of them would tell you they’d play for him tomorrow. He was a winner.” They played for him even though it was hard and at times confounding, because they knew he brought out the best in them and he won. We need to know that our God always brings out the best in us, and in a sense he is the ultimate winner.

Typically in discouraging situations we try to find the why. Why is this happening? Paul did the same thing. You can see it in Philippians 1. That’s all right, but it’s never going to give us the answer we most need. What is most important is that we keep in view the who rather than the why. When we know who is at work, then we can be at peace with whatever is happening. We can keep serving God and stay optimistic because our loving God is in control.

#### KNOW THE WHAT

Paul says in verse 1 that he was the prisoner of Christ Jesus “for the sake of you Gentiles.” He knew that he was called by God to tell people about Jesus, but especially Gentiles. This was the mission of his life. It was the “what” of his life. It was the thing he did no matter what might happen. He pursued doing that because Jesus directly told him that was what he wanted him to do.

In Acts 22 a riot occurred in Jerusalem because some people accused Paul of bringing Gentiles into the temple, which was absolutely forbidden. He had not done so, but merely the accusation started a riot. Roman troops intervened and for the moment calmed the mob. They then gave Paul a chance to defend himself to the crowd. He told them about his past and his conversion to faith in Jesus. Then he told them that when he was in Jerusalem after that event the Lord warned him that his people were going to reject what he said and seek to kill him. He told him to leave Jerusalem. Then in verse 21 Paul said, “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go, I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

Paul knew that God’s mission for him was for him to go to the Gentile world. This was not a message well received in Jerusalem. Acts 22:22 says, “The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, ‘Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!’” The riot got worse than ever, and that was the beginning of Paul’s long sojourn in chains. But the main thing we should see is that Paul was very clear about what his purpose was. In Romans 1:5 he said, “Through him (Christ) we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the

obedience that comes from faith.” In Romans 11:13 he called himself the “apostle to the Gentiles.”

That mission gave Paul passion, focus and the ability to persevere. In 2 Corinthians 11:23-26 he wrote about what he had been through. He had been flogged and imprisoned repeatedly. He said, “Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked.” He went on to say he was constantly on the move and continually in danger. How did he keep going in the face of such continuing severe discouragements? He knew what his life was about. He was focused on that so much that nothing was going to stop him.

In Philippians 2:17 he wrote, “Even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.” In other words, even if he was about to be killed he still rejoiced, because he was doing what God had told him to do, bringing the gospel to Gentile people.

It’s astounding how much strength for endurance we can gain simply from being clear about our mission in life the way Paul was. He knew his mission was not to be safe, popular, comfortable, rich, or applauded for his great successes. His mission was to bring the gospel to Gentiles. Had he not been as clear on that I suspect after the third or fourth beating he would have said, “I think it’s time for plan B. This isn’t working out for me at all.” Instead, he figured if this was what it took to bring the gospel to Gentiles, then so be it. Bring it on.

I believe that at every point in life we have the option of playing one of two roles. We can either see ourselves as victims, or we can see ourselves as agents. If I see myself primarily as being acted upon by people and circumstances that I have little or no control over and I find that those things are often unfair or unkind or both, then soon I am a victim. As a victim my response to life will be self-pity, because we pity victims. But what if I see myself as an agent, sent into a dangerous situation by a wise and loving leader so that I can carry out a crucial mission, then I will be more prone to trust the wisdom of the one who sent me here and will focus on doing whatever is necessary to carry out my mission. Paul saw himself as an agent serving Almighty God, not as a victim. In all that happened to him, not once did he evidence self-pity or a victim mentality.

Winston Churchill, October 29, 1941 at Harrow School, did not say, “never give up.” In referring to the lessons of the previous ten months, he said the main lesson was, “never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never, in nothing, great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.” He went on to say: “Britain, other nations thought, had drawn a sponge across her slate. But instead, our country stood in the gap. There was no flinching and no thought of giving in; and by what seemed almost a miracle to those outside these Islands, though we ourselves never doubted it, we now find ourselves in a position where I say that we can be sure

that we have only to persevere to conquer...These are not dark days; these are great days—the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.”

Those were tough days. He was right, they weren't the darkest days. But Britain was at war standing mostly alone. Churchill was focused on a purpose. He saw the position of Britain in the grand scale of what was happening in the world, and saw that though it was hard, what they were doing was glorious and good. It was, in fact, epic and history making. So despite the blood, sweat and tears, in his mind those hard days were “the greatest days our country has ever lived.”

So the obvious question we must ask is, what is our purpose? None of us have been handed a direct mission by God the way Paul was. Yet we do have a mission. Peter said we are here to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his light. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” That is a purpose we are to live for in every circumstance. God will give us our own particular way to carry out that purpose. Like Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, we may have a unique context that forms the focus of our lives. In my case, it has had to do with helping people find the glory of the grace of God in their lives through teaching his truth and serving them. But some day I won't have the job I have had for 40 years. Someday people will say, “Dude, you're too old. Time to hang it up.” But I will still be alive. Do I no longer have that purpose? I don't know what that will look like, but I know God will still want me to live for that purpose. God's purpose should drive everything we do, no matter where we are or what is happening in our lives.

### KNOW THAT YOU DON'T KNOW

Notice that the word “mystery” shows up several times in these verses. In verse 3, Paul said there was a mystery made known to him by revelation. On my phone every day there is a series of news stories that Google seems to think I'll find interesting. I'm not quite sure why they think this will be of such interest to me, but pretty much every day there will be a story about Malaysian Air flight 370 that disappeared five years ago. To this day no one knows with absolute certainty what happened to that plane and its passengers. It is still a mystery. That's not exactly what Paul meant by the term “mystery.” Our idea of mystery is a puzzle to be solved, like the puzzle of what happened to that flight. Paul meant a fact or truth we would not know unless it is revealed to us. We're not going to understand it by using human abilities. The parallel with how we use the term mystery is in the idea of something being revealed. Hopefully someday the mystery of Flight 370 will be solved when what happened is revealed by finding the plane.

Paul said there was a mystery that was revealed to him. He tells us explicitly what that mystery was in verse 6. “This mystery is that through the gospel Gentiles are heirs together with Israel.” That has been pretty much the theme since early in Chapter 2. It was a mystery because prior to Christ revealing this truth Paul would never have imagined it. He had lived his entire life knowing that the Hebrew people were God's chosen people, and only the Hebrew people belonged to him. Their laws set them apart from all others, and Paul loved those laws. He knew that the covenant

they had with God - that they would keep his laws and he would be their God - was divinely instituted. This was the most important thing in Paul's life. So to be told that those pagan, sinful, ignorant Gentiles were now invited in to be part of God's people, was inconceivable to him. To be told that the key to getting into God's kingdom was not the Law of Moses, that in fact now we are to no longer live under that law at all, was as likely as the sun coming up in the west. Not only could he never have imagined it, he hated the idea of it. To him it was a direct attack on all that was most holy to him. Yet God did something Paul would not have imagined in a billion years. He made Gentiles part of his people, and did it completely apart from the holy Law of Moses! This was inconceivable, utterly unexpected.

What do we know and what do we not know? There is one thing we know. That is what we want to have happen. We do know that we don't have total control over whether it will or not, but most of the time we have a pretty good idea of how we want things to go. But there are two things we don't know. First, we don't know what *will* happen. We can't see the future and we can't control it. We exert a little influence over it, but not much. But second, we don't know what *should* happen.

Paul knew what he wanted to have happen. He wanted the Jewish people to go on obeying their laws and he wanted other people to leave them alone. He wanted Israel to become the preeminent nation in the world and have everyone see that they were right all along. He wanted to personally rise in the ranks of the respected religious leaders of Israel. But he didn't know what would happen, which was that God would do something utterly unexpected through the Messiah, and that he would totally change Paul's whole life. He also did not know what should happen. Where would the world be if God had done what Paul wanted? Where would we be? We'd be lost and hopeless.

We need to keep in mind that while we might have an idea about how we'd like things to go, we don't know what will happen and more important, we don't know what should happen. I can guarantee you that the disciples of Jesus absolutely did not want Jesus to be executed. They were sure that such a thing should never, ever happen, that in fact it was the worst thing they could imagine. And yet, it was exactly what should have happened.

Have you ever thought about what it must have been like for those first disciples of Jesus who followed him around for a couple of years? I wonder if they got to a place where they adopted as their team motto, "Well, I didn't see that coming." Early in his ministry at one point a huge crowd was following him. Jesus led them to a hill and launched off into what would turn out to be perhaps history's greatest sermon. He began it by saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God." "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Um, what now? Sure didn't see that coming.

Later at one point a respected religious leader came to Jesus and asked him to help his 12-year-old daughter, who was gravely ill. By this time the disciples were used to this kind of thing, because Jesus was healing people all over the landscape. Ho hum, another healing. But on the way to see

the little girl word came that it was too late, the poor little girl had died. It was crushing. Too bad Jesus couldn't have gotten to her sooner. But in Luke 8:50 Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, just believe, and she will be healed." Uh, yeah, about that, Jesus. Um, see, the girl is dead, D-E-A-D. You don't heal death. There's no medicine for death. The fat lady sang, the opera's over, put a lid on it. But Jesus went to the little girl and said, "My child, get up." And she did! She was alive. After the jaws had all dropped I'm sure the disciples said, "Wow, did not see that coming."

Then there was the time there was a crowd in excess of 10,000 people gathered to hear Jesus preach. It was getting late in the day and they were in an unpopulated area, so the disciples suggested that Jesus send the crowd away to go look for food. Do you remember what Jesus said to them? "You give them something to eat." Um, what now? How are we supposed to do that? Where are we going to get enough food for 10,000 people? Jesus said, "Well, look around and see what you can come up with." That proved futile. All they found was that a family had gone to Rubio's, but their son decided he didn't want the two fish taco plate they had bought for him, so they still had it. Jesus said, "Great, that will do just fine." Right, two fish tacos for this mob of 10,000 people. Everybody will get 1/5000<sup>th</sup> of a taco. That's two hundredths of a percent of a taco per person. Since Rubio's fish tacos are about 300 calories that means everyone will get .06 calories. Very nutritious, and filling. Good plan, Jesus. Then Jesus used that little bit of food to feed that huge mass of people. Everyone had all they could eat and there were 12 baskets full of food left over, and it wasn't just baskets of tortilla chips, either. "Wow, did not see that coming."

There was the day Jesus decided that Matthew, whom not one of the disciples wanted anything to do with and everyone in his city hated, should be one of his chosen disciples. There was the night they were rowing across the Sea of Galilee and Jesus showed up walking along on top of the water! There was the day that he called the most respected religious leaders in the country a bunch of snakes. Didn't see that one coming either. Jesus' life consummated in his death and resurrection, and they did not see either of those coming.

A lot of the time Jesus did and said things they were kind of used to, but they never knew from one day to the next what he might do that would catch them completely off guard. He would say and do things they would never have dreamed of. Should we be surprised if as we follow Jesus he does things that seem to come from out of the blue?

In his book, *Your God Is Too Safe*, Mark Buchanan wrote, "Our lives should be lived with expectancy. Not...with expectation...Expectancy is the belief that God will do something. Expectation insists that he do it in just this way." Mark Batterson wrote in *In A Pit With A Lion On A Snowy Day*, "Life is infinitely uncertain and God is infinitely complex...All we can do is accept our finitude and embrace uncertainty. Faith doesn't reduce uncertainty. Faith embraces uncertainty."

No matter what is going on in your life, whether it be good or bad, because you are walking with the God of the unexpected you need never give in to discouragement. Yes, discouraging things



will happen and you will feel the discouragement, but that's when you need to remember that God does the unexpected. You never know what he is going to do with what is happening in your life.

Tim Sanders, the former Chief Solutions Officer at Yahoo, and a leadership coach, tells the story of a young manager named Steve in his book, *Love Is The Killer App*. Steve had six employees under him, but he had little face to face contact with them for months. After being encouraged by what he heard from Sanders he decided he needed to visit them and encourage them. He decided he would tell each one that he appreciated them and name one thing they did with excellence. After his visit one of his software engineers, a man named Lenny, gave him an Xbox video game console. He was especially surprised because he knew Lenny had to deal with pay cuts that year. Then he learned the full unexpected story. Lenny got the money by selling a pistol. Lenny had been going through a period of serious loneliness and depression. He said each evening he would eat a bowl of Ramen and listen to music, then he would take the gun out. It took him a month to put bullets in the gun. He said he was getting very close to finally pulling the trigger. He said to Steve, "Last week you freaked me out. You came into my cubicle, put your arm around me, and told me you appreciated me because I turn in all my projects early, and that helps you sleep at night. You also said I have a fine sense of humor over email and that you are glad I'm in your life. That night, when I got the gun out, it scared me silly for the first time. All I could think about was what you said, that you were glad I came into your life. The next day I went to the pawn shop and sold the gun. I remembered that you had said you wanted the Xbox more than anything, but with a new baby at home could not afford it. So for my life, you get this game. Thanks, boss." Totally unexpected. As we follow Jesus we can never know what he will do with our lives.

## CONCLUSION

Here are three powerful ideas that are a huge help in combatting discouragement. Know who is in charge, of your life and of the world and everyone in it. Know what your life is about, what your mission is. And know that you don't know what should happen or what will happen, but that you do know God will often do the unexpected.

David Brainerd launched off into an endeavor to bring the light of the gospel of Christ to Native Americans in 1743. He had been kicked out of Yale. There was a split between the faculty on one hand and students on the other, because the faculty felt there was too much "spiritual enthusiasm" among the students. Students were forbidden from criticizing the lack of such enthusiasm among faculty. Brainerd was expelled because he commented that one faculty member, "had no more grace than a chair." At that time all pastors had to have either graduated from Harvard, Yale, or a college in Europe. Since Yale kicked him out and would not allow him back in, he could not pursue his chosen career as a pastor. So at the suggestion and encouragement of friends, he became a missionary to Native Americans. He battled discouragement and depression as well as a serious illness that proved to be tuberculosis. Early in his work with the Delaware tribe he had no success. He wrote in his journal about a low point, "My heart is sunk...It seemed to me that I should never have any success among the Indians. My soul was weary of life; I longed for death beyond measure." But he did eventually see some success and a church was planted among that

tribe. But the tuberculosis defeated him, and he died in 1747 at the age of 29. That seems like a discouraging story. But Brainerd's journals were published by Jonathan Edwards, who knew him well. And those journals have had huge impact. William Carey, who ignited the modern Protestant missionary movement, said that Brainerd's journal was the key to inspiring him to pursue the missionary endeavor. Jim Elliott, the well-known martyr, was inspired by Brainerd's journal. Princeton University was started in part because of dissatisfaction with Yale caused by the expulsion and refusal to readmit Brainerd. Today at Yale there is a building called Brainerd Hall, the only building on the campus to be named after a student who was expelled.

Recently at one point in the space of a couple of weeks I had to deal with several things that were very disappointing and quite discouraging. I was fresh out of solutions for the situations I was facing. I got pretty down for a bit. But I recalled the things I saw in this passage. None of this is a surprise to Jesus. He not only knows about it, he knew about it before Adam and Eve messed up in the Garden of Eden. It has not happened because he was unable to deal with it. So I remembered that I was right where Jesus wanted me. I remembered that my mission in this life is not to have everything go the way I want, but to give glory to God whatever is happening in my life. And in the middle of it though I know what I want to happen, I don't know what should happen. So I can expect God to work and do the unexpected. As we face discouragement, and we all will at times, let's never forget The Who of our lives, who is in charge. Never forget the What, that we are about glorifying God. And never forget that when God is with us, there is no limit to what he can and will do. We don't know either what should happen or what God will do, but we can know it will be good.