



It's Monday afternoon, and I am sitting cozy and warm on my couch, looking at my lovely Christmas tree. But I'm not supposed to be here. According to my regular schedule, I am supposed to be at STP, giving this devotion to our classes. But nothing that I have had planned over the past few days has gone according to my schedule!

I was supposed to go to the mountains over the weekend, to meet with friends and join them in singing in a Christmas cantata. Mr. Joe (my husband) was going too. He is a harpist and had planned to play with the orchestra. It was going to be a fine adventure!

Our plans began to change once we listened to the weather forecast. It seemed that the mountains were set to receive more snow than our area, and so our weekend away was cancelled. We managed to have a lovely weekend, but it was different than we had planned.

Any time there is snow, or bad weather, plans change. I was born in February and when I was little, it seemed to always snow around my birthday. My mom would have planned a party, and it had to be cancelled. The snow was fun, but it always seemed like I ended up missing something because of the snow.

As an adult, I look at things a little differently. I have learned that life goes fast - too fast sometimes. I'm keeping up with multiple schedules (STP, 1 husband, 5 children...yikes), and I am on the move a lot. I know that your family is busy too! Sometimes things get away from us, and before we know it, we are on a carousel of activity that never stops. We just move from horse to horse, and the carousel continues to turn.

The wonderful thing about God is that He sees the carousel. It's like He sees where I am and says slow down. And if I'm not listening, then he uses the weather to get my attention. Every time it snows, it makes me stop and re-evaluate what I am doing, how I am serving (or not serving) my family, and what I need to do to refocus my life around Him and His plan.

I have learned that the weather seems like an inconvenience, but what I see as inconvenience, God uses for my benefit. All His plans for me are good plans...whether they fit into my schedule or not! I have to adjust my thinking to trust His plan. Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."

Sometimes I need to stop planning and wait for God to move my feet in the direction that He would have me go. And sometimes, if I won't stop and listen, he sends snow. Sometimes we all need to just...snow down.

Key verses: *God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that everyone he has made may know his work, he stops all people from their labor.*

Job 37:5-7