

# When God's Plan Is Different than Ours

KAITLYN DONIHUE'S MONTHLY UPDATE

JANUARY 2020



The book of Luke is considered by many to be the most eloquent of the gospels. It is more detailed than Matthew, Mark, or John, and the writing is particularly beautiful. Many Bible scholars believe that Luke wrote both his gospel and the book of Acts as evidence for the Apostle Paul's defense. It seems that Luke traveled all over Israel interviewing people who knew Jesus in a desperate but futile effort to save Paul's life.



University of Kansas, September 2019

God had called Luke for the purpose of writing a gospel account, but likely, Luke didn't comprehend this calling. He had a goal in mind and was probably totally unaware of how God would use his writing. When Paul was beheaded, what went through Luke's mind? Did he feel like he had failed? Did he think that the time that he had spent chronicling the life of Jesus and the early church had been a waste?

God had a plan to redeem what must have seemed totally unredeemable. Luke had one purpose in mind. God had another.

This is often the case. We have one goal in mind, but God is doing something completely different. Sometimes we get glimpses of His work. At other times we must simply trust.

When I was at the University of New Mexico last spring, I got to catch a glimpse of God's hand at work.

A young man named Daniel rode up to our display on a skateboard. He stopped right in front of me, so I asked him what he thought of our display. His response surprised and saddened me. He said, "I think that abortion should be legal because I wish my mom had aborted me."

Up until that point, I had thought that I was there to talk to Daniel about abortion; but suddenly I realized I wasn't there for that purpose at all. At that moment, Daniel didn't need me to defend the value of a tiny unborn child he could not see. He needed me to defend his own value and point him to God, who gave him his value.

I shared the gospel with him, and we talked for a long time about God, the problem of pain, evolution, and science. After we said goodbye, as he was heading away from our display, Daniel was stopped by the director of a campus ministry. They talked for a while.

Later, I asked the campus ministry leader about Daniel, and the leader



Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, keeps our team from having conversations!



explained that his campus ministry had been reaching out to Daniel. The leader felt that God was working to draw Daniel to Himself.

I was excited to have gotten to play a small role in what God was doing in the life of a student, even if it wasn't the kind of role I had expected to play.

Our God is amazing. His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. He works through our lives in wonderful and unexpected ways. Things may not go as we think they should. As with Luke, it may even seem that we have failed and that no good could come from our efforts. But if we are faithful, God weaves even failure into a picture of His grace.

In Christ,



Kaitlyn Donihue

P.S. I want to invite you to join me in prayer for some upcoming events:

**February 7-13:** I will be joining the JFA team in Denton, Texas to train others through seminar and outreach events.

**February 22-28:** I will be joining the JFA team in San Antonio, Texas to train others through seminar and outreach events.

**March 7-10:** I will be joining the JFA team in Dallas, Texas to train others through seminar and outreach events.

**March 11:** I will be speaking at a conference.

**March 21-April 1:** I will be joining the JFA team in Durango, Colorado to train others through seminar and outreach events.

See the JFA Event Calendar ([www.jfaweb.org/calendar](http://www.jfaweb.org/calendar)) for updates to these and other JFA events.

