

DON'T GIVE SATAN A Foothold!

Are satan-interrupted plans to God's plan in your life acceptable? Your answer is (or should be) an obvious No! I don't want to give satan too much credit here as his schemes are always the same and are so predictable but if he can't have our soul, then he will do his absolute best to interrupt your and my activities in God's master plan; maybe to the point of God having to find another Believer to take our place if we side-step our responsibilities. Ouch! Note, God's master plan will happen with or without us. He's God, and what He says happens. Okay, that's an off-topic tangent.

Following the shutdown of Servant Riders Ministries (last year), I was in search of a new opportunity where I could serve and minister in one or more of Alabama's correctional institutions. I knew my church had a strong, weekly presence in over a dozen of the correctional facilities (CF) across our state, so I pursued the annual training (in Jan.) under their banner of service/ministry. What I didn't know at that time was that it was going to take me six (6) months to get re-approved to enter a CF once again. This delay should not have happened because I have been in the CF's system for several simultaneous years now, but institution politics and personalities got in the way. With final approval, I planned to begin my 2019 service and ministry at the Decatur Work Release on Tue., July 2 evening.

On Tue, I arose early to make a bike trek to Birmingham to work at headquarters; no problemo, or so I thought at that time. Following my day's work, I hopped on my bike just after 4 pm, so I could make it to Decatur no later than 6 pm. Upon firing up my bike, I saw my dash flash an error message about “__ pressure!” At first, I thought it was an oil pressure warning because I had changed my oil the day before but learned quickly it was my rear tire pressure. *I have an on-board tire pressure monitoring system.* It had a reading of 12 psi, a far cry from 42 psi (its normal reading). In twenty (20) years of riding and lots of miles, I've never had motorcycle tire problems and of all days...on the day I was finally going to make it back into a correctional facility. Coincidence? I think not! I believe satan was looking for yet another way to delay my re-entering a CF, but I was determined he was not going to win. I took a slow ride to a nearby fuel station; one that I knew had an air machine. I learned quickly that the sensor was correct. It was that low, and I could not spot a nail or screw in tire. I filled the tire to 42 psi and prayed that I would make it to Decatur in time, all the while wondering if I really needed to take I-65 or H-31. I opted for I-65, thinking ahead to the exits where I may need to fill up again. Over the course of my trek toward Decatur, I saw the pressure drop to 37, 35, 31, ... all the way down to around 25 by the time I arrived in Decatur. I rebuked satan many times on my way north, saying he was not going to get the victory here; not this time!

Long story short, I made it on time, in one piece and we had an awesome service and ministry time with several of the inmates there. While there, I also made some inroads with our church's prison leadership to be able to share and speak about my book's contents in a fall small

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group's session. This was not something I pursued but was brought up by one of the guys who knows me (and Marina), and he asked me to share with the other leaders, while waiting to begin the evening service. Wow, a God-given opportunity awaits me/us on the horizon now.

In summary, God is good ... All the time ... and All the time ... God is good. Our part: don't give satan an inch (i.e., a chance or opportunity), because he will demand a mile (ref. Eph. 4:27)!

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