

The Publius Directive:

There are divine missions on God's operational chart that are beyond our human understanding and far from our fulfillment abilities.

Sometimes that is because we do not have the vision to see what/where God is looking at, much less understand WHY He is looking in that direction. Even after we attempt to look into God's overall purpose, there STILL remains many divine "unknowns" (to our limited understanding); such spiritual "blindness" is MUCH more common than we are willing to admit. We only see via a very small sliver of revelation the overall picture of God's purpose.

Then, there is also the problem of human logic and reasoning. Without the Holy Ghost, we can only understand things according to our human reasoning. There are things that happen around us that "just don't make good sense." We tend to look at things according to cost/benefit ratios, expediency, and maximization of "profits."

Looking at John 4:4 from a missionary viewpoint, most of us would NOT see the Samaria trip as a good outreach project. According to the New Testament travel logs, you will not find another trip made just to talk with ONLY ONE PERSON (see note below). Especially if the life history of that targeted person is (was) marred by a checkered list of missteps and sin. I wonder if the disciples ever fully understood the unique events and revealed concepts of that Samaria trip.

When your life plan is pushed off course by unexpected storms in an unusual sum of “weird” circumstances, you need to take an unscheduled pause to look around find the angel of God while waiting and listening for God’s promptings. The storm may be a God thing to move you toward a mission that has NOTHING to do with YOUR life mission or purpose, but it is rather a totally GOD THING that will NEVER be explainable nor ever partially understood by you while here on earth! These unexpected stops on life’s highway are SEEDS that God is placing along HIS timeline of events as HE reaches for something that has NO logic nor even remotely connected to your daily “to-do list” or weekly objectives.

Most of us tend to look at the storm of Acts 27 as a story about hardheaded men such as the boat captain and also the centurion who refused to listen to Apostle Paul.

Yet, looking at the event from a logical position of reasoning, that Storm had no real significance to the final result (Paul ended up in Rome anyway!).

Question: are the events of Acts 28 merely a byproduct of the Chapter 27 storm... OR... was the shipwreck on that island the REAL PURPOSE of the storm?

Maybe... who knows ... (who will EVER know!?!) ... just maybe that storm was designed and inserted by God to be executed EXCLUSIVELY on behalf of a man that lived on the “never heard of” *island* called Melita. Perhaps God was including a small-town mayor named Publius in His overall plan!

Was the storm-caused detour successful?

WE WILL NEVER KNOW (Publius is never mentioned again)!

But we do know that Paul did his job when he was inserted into Publius's life via a hurricane!

When you are thrown off schedule today, will you be ready to perform on God's behalf even if you cannot understand what is happening around you? I hope so!

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Note: I did not research the NT to see if John 4 was truly the only incidence of a trip made for one single person. If there were other similar trips, obviously, there were not many. Forgive me if I am wrong about this.