

Ordinary Events, Divine Undertones

Psalm 37: 5-7 & 23-24

The year usually begins with people making new year resolutions/plans/decisions. However, statistics show that only about 8% of people actually achieve these.... There are many reasons for this, but one often overlooked reason is the fact that we are not entirely in control of our lives and circumstances. We are not God. As Christians, we need to remember that God has a plan for our lives and he is actively but subtly working out his divine purpose/plans for our lives through the ordinary circumstances in our daily life. There are many stories in the Bible that bring this truth to life, one of such stories we find in 1 Samuel 9.

Questions for discussion

- 1) Discuss Prov. 16:1,9 & Jer. 10:23 in light of the statement: Human beings are not entirely in control of their lives and circumstances.

- 2) What should the Christian attitude to planning be? Psalm 37:5-7a and James 4:13-15. Discuss practical ways to apply the admonition in these passages. **NB: To commit is to entrusting responsibility, task, object or matter to another person.**

- 3) Read 1 Samuel 9:1-21. Do you agree with the following statements? What are their implications for us today? Share personal experiences where possible.
 - a) Saul had a clear goal but God had another plan. Ch. 9:1-4
 - b) God's plan was interwoven into the ordinary events in Saul's life. Ch 9: 4-21
 - c) God had to draw Saul out from his family and hometown. Ch. 9:1-4, 21

- 4) How are we to view difficult times? 1 Cor. 4:17 and Rom. 8:28