



Light Up Your  
**Christmas**

PART 2 : When God Messes Up Your Plans

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*“You can make many plans, but the  
Lord’s purpose will prevail.”*

PROVERBS 19:21, NLT

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## Subplots in the Christmas Story

**Herod** plans on being king of the Jews, but the magi announce that there is a new king of the Jews.

**Shepherds** plan to finish their work in the fields, but the angel redirects them to the manger.

**Jewish leaders** plan for a messiah to deliver them from Rome, but they get a baby to deliver them from sin.

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# Subplots in the Christmas Story

**Elizabeth** plans for barrenness in life, but the angel announces a baby in her old age.

**Joseph** plans on a proper Jewish wife, but his fiancé announces she is pregnant.

**Mary** plans for her nuptials, but she has to prepare a nursery.

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## Mary's Reordered Plans

1

She will become pregnant before her wedding ceremony.

2

Joseph, her fiancé, will not be the father—and it will be a virgin birth.

3

The baby is going to be God.



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*“Many are the plans in a person’s heart,  
but it’s the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”*

PROVERBS 19:21, NIV

**Plan all I want—generally a good thing—but God reserves the right to change my plans.**

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*When it comes to what evil wreaks  
in my life, God didn't plan that!  
But God has planned for that!*

**God providentially repurposes  
our circumstances because he's  
got something else in mind.**

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## Change of Plans

1

When God messes up  
my plans, he's trying to  
get my attention.

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*"Mary was greatly troubled at  
his words...but the angel said to  
her, "Don't be afraid."*

LUKE 1:29

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*“The Lord says, ‘I know the plans I have for you...’”*

JEREMIAH 29:11

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## Change of Plans

2

When God messes up my plans, it is always because he's got a better plan

*“...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* JEREMIAH 29:11

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**God will never turn my world upside down to make it worse. He always has something better for me.**

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# A *Change* of Plan

**Joseph and Mary desired simplicity.  
The world required a savior.**

*“Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”* MATTHEW 1:21

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# God’s *Better* Plan

**God’s plan is always bigger than my plan because he’s got a bigger perspective.**

*“My thoughts aren’t your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* ISAIAH 55:8-9

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# God’s *Better* Plan

**God’s plan will likely be harder than my plan.**

*Why?* **Because God is more interested in advancing his kingdom than my comfort.**

**When I cooperate with God’s plan, I won’t always get the easy, but I will get the eternal**

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# God's *Better* Plan

When God messes up my plans, he is inviting me to join him in his work.

.....  
*"Nothing is impossible with God."* LUKE 1:37  
.....

A Divine change in my plans is always an opportunity to step out in faith and go with God on an adventure of eternal consequence!

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## RESPONDING TO A *Change of Plans*

God has a plan for me—  
*a good plan*—that is undimmed by my difficulties and disappointments.

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## HOW TO RESPOND TO a *change of Plans*

I must be *open!*

*"Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them."* LUKE 2:19, LB

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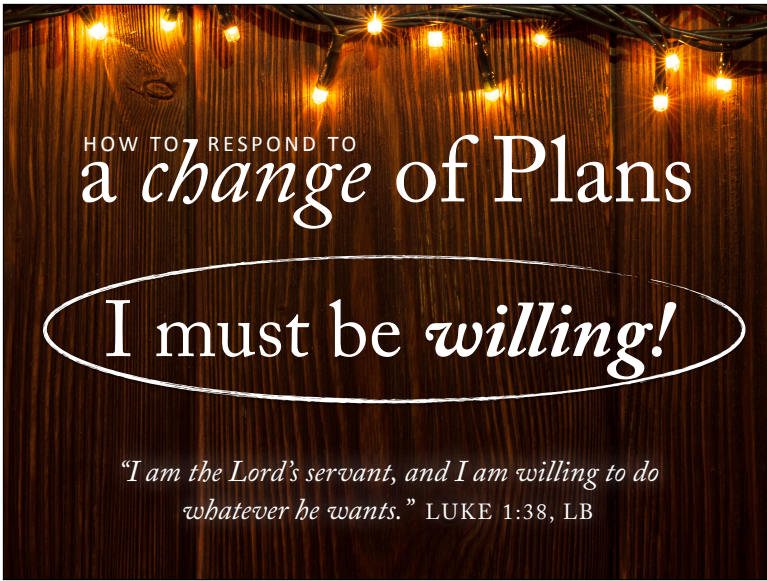
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HOW TO RESPOND TO  
*a change* of Plans

I must be *willing!*

*"I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants."* LUKE 1:38, LB

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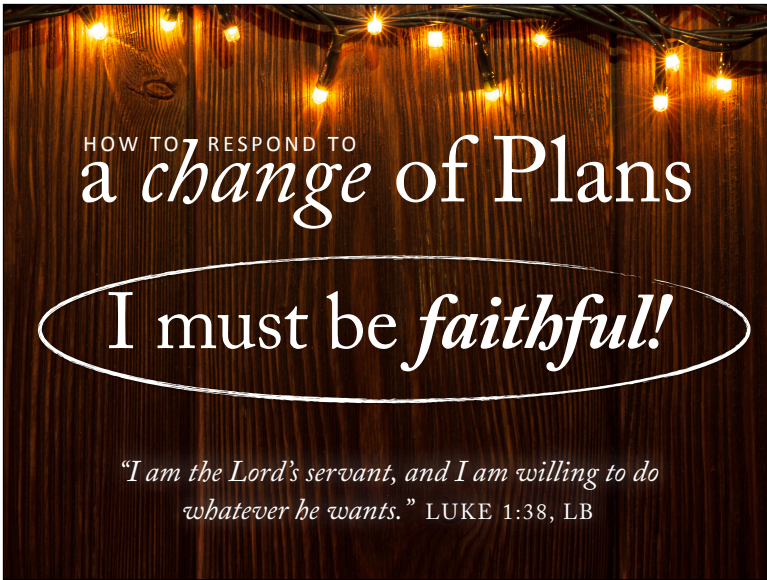
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HOW TO RESPOND TO  
*a change* of Plans

I must be *faithful!*

*"I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants."* LUKE 1:38, LB

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*God's Promise  
To My Faithfulness*

*"You believed that God would do what he said; that's why he has given you this wonderful blessing."* LUKE 1:45, LB

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