

The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFENEWS

WORK WITH

GOD

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I like my schedule and routine. I always have. When I was younger, my parents used to tell me that I could set their watches by myself. I would come get my nightly cup of tea at exactly 10:30 p.m., and I liked planning and following through on it. I didn't like it when my schedule got changed. When I was younger, interruptions caused meltdowns!

As we have been going through the *Experiencing God* study, one reality seems to have grabbed my attention, reality # 3. Reality 3: God invites you to become involved with him in his work. The kid's version of the realities puts it this way, "Work with God." God is doing things and wants us to be a part of it. He wants us to be about his mission on earth.

Obviously, we don't want to be actively against God. Disobeying God is sinful. Yes, we still can sin and do so more often than we would like to. However, working with God is more than not sinning. We can make plans and schedules that aren't sinful. (I don't think you are planning to rob a bank this week.) Having plans is not wrong, but so often, we do it without God. We miss out on what God wants us to join him in. He wants us to join him in his work here.

God is involved in planning (See Noah and the Ark or Moses and the Tabernacle). He can and does give long-term plans. This doesn't mean we put him aside for a week or six months while we work on them. He wants us to work with him every day.

Jesus knew that he would eventually die for us. Yet, he went to the Father to know the next steps . . . to know what the Father was doing. In fact, Jesus often got 'interrupted' by people.

The classic example of this is the woman who was bleeding in Mark 5. Jesus was on his way to see Jarius' daughter, who had died (another interruption). As Jesus was moving through the crowd with people pressed against him, he suddenly stopped and asked, "Who touched me?" His disciples told Jesus there were lots of people pressing in, and how can you say who touched me? Jesus felt power had gone out from him when he was touched. He sees a woman and knows it is she who touched his garment and tells her she has been healed. Jesus was always aware of what God was doing, and that included allowing himself to be 'interrupted' and stopping what he was doing, even if just for one.

Today, ask God what he has for you as you plan your schedule, whether it is for the week or the day. He is working and wants you to be a part of it. As you go through your day, be aware of what God is doing; he may 'interrupt' you with a conversation or situation that was not initially on your to-do list. It is part of the journey of being in a relationship with God. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and live in a God-centered plan.