

What happens when you get knocked off of the road, is there life in a ditch?

By: Jayman

So life is skipping along and hippity-hop you're skipping right along with it. Everything seems to be great in your personal life, relationships and work. Your spiritual life is pretty strong and emotionally you're solid and you're feeling like 999,999 bucks! (*save one dollar, cause no one really feels like a million*) You have plans and goals that are written out and waiting to be put into action and you feel that right around the very next corner is God's new season in your life and all of a sudden KA-BOOM! A tire blows out and life's SUV is knocked into the ditch, and not on purpose either!

You say to yourself, ok I'm in the ditch now; the road is up there and all I see is tall grass and gophers, not the open road and winding curves. Next, you realize that you need to get out and fix the tire, but then realize that you took the spare out to make room for boxes. Ok, no spare, no cell phone, and no food, hmmm, there doesn't seem to be an immediate way out of the ditch. The walls of the ditch are very steep and high and no one can really see in, so it seems that rescue isn't an immediate option either...what a predicament!

So you're going to be here a while...things are out of your physical control and this is home. I suppose you have some choices, you can decorate the new home with a real bad attitude, questions of God's sovereignty and self pity. "*No one can see me...how could God let this happen right now? At this moment? I thought around the next corner there was a new town to settle in that He directed me to, He's left me on my own.?*". It would seem natural to whine a little bit right?...didn't a bunch of Israelites do that in some desert some where for 40 years? If you remember, whining **really** worked for them!

Did God leave you? Did He really? I say no. The other choice of how to decorate your temporary home is to seek Jesus in the midst of the ditch. God can see right down into the ditch because He has a unique vantage point, and from that place, He provides you with warmth, food, direction, companionship and love. He has given you a golden opportunity to talk with Him, and if you keep a bible in your SUV, to read about Him with little to no distraction, maybe just a couple of gophers from time to time. You soon realize that the town He was taking you to is still there and isn't going anywhere, and, as soon as you get out of the ditch, you can signal back on to the highway and round that corner to the town.

Another bonus of being in a ditch in your SUV is that your family is with you. The closeness that comes out of this time is incredible. You're not focusing on the road and watching for other cars, your attention is with your spouse and children. You can play "I spy with my little eye" (even though the colour is mostly green), and you can sing songs and tell stories and pray together. You have an opportunity to invest in the midst of the ditch that will make an impact on your family like never before.

You can make the ditch a place of life and joy and not a place of fear and loneliness. In Psalm 84, it talks about a place called the Valley of Baca, a very dry place. It is a place that on its own is not suitable to live and function normally, but, God can make it a place of springs and life! Read this Psalm sometime and see what God does for those who pass through this valley.

Life in a ditch at first may seem scary and never ending, but God can give you abundant life there. Jesus will fill you up with love and be with you, if you let Him. The Holy Spirit will teach you, grow you and help you to feel the Father's heartbeat and will, if you listen. The Father will keep you in his arms and protect you and supply your every need, if you're vulnerable. God, in His time, will take you out of the ditch and life will soon resemble some form of normalcy...but...you're now stronger and closer to Him, and the new town will never know what hit it!

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Last modified: July 22, 2000

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