

## **Proverbs for Teachers 11**

A reprint series for LEA members  
October 18, 2020

### **Things Happen**

Prov. 16:9

*We cannot do everything we want to do, but we can do everything God wants us to do.*

Bumper to bumper on the Interstate—a common, everyday practice in patience, and even more so when you're trying to catch a flight. Finally, in the security line, I gave up on being in the first group to board—the airline doesn't reserve seats. Grumbling, I boarded in the last group. I found myself far back and in the middle seat besides!

Doors closed. Jet crawled out on an apron nearly as congested as the Interstate. Such gross delay and inconvenience shouldn't happen to somebody working for God! Then I discovered why this happened. The man behind me was beginning to gasp. Someone had opened a bag of peanuts; he was highly allergic, and he had mistakenly packed his Benadryl in a checked suitcase. He asked for help. I was the only one with Benadryl in my briefcase. God put my allergies and the day's disappointments to good use.

Good teachers plan ahead. They read the manual, prepare activities, and plan accommodations for those for whom learning is difficult. Then something happens to throw off our best-laid plans, to slow them down, or even derail them.

But God always keeps His promise to work through every circumstance for the good of those who love Him (Rom 8:28). The writer of Proverbs puts it this way: *In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.* (Prov. 16:9).

Watch your steps, dear Christian teacher. You know where you want to go, but sometimes you'll have a hard time getting to your destination. Then wait for God to act. Watch for what He is doing. Is He providing opportunity for ministry outside your usual role? Is He giving you a chance to reflect the image He created in you—His image? Is there something He wants you to learn, something that you'll need to know but never imagined?

*Pray: Dear Father, work in me to make me what You want me to be, even if it's well beyond my imagination. Give me a servant's heart, one willing to follow You wherever You want to take me. Amen.*

*In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.* (Prov. 16:9).

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