

A Good Read from Turtlebee Farms

This is the letter we wrote for a 2025 Christmas devotional using a post-Thanksgiving story. It also seemed fitting for the Easter season.

TRUE STORY

POST THANKSGIVING 2025

The plan was to leave for our oldest son's home in southern Tennessee for an extended Thanksgiving weekend after the last customer's turkey was picked up on Wednesday, November 26th. Due to the numerous details involved, our departure was delayed until later in the day. One of those details was the last 43-pound item to be loaded into the very back of the van for the trip.

Got any guesses?

Remember, we're going for Thanksgiving. Also, they are a Family of ten with another Family planning to join them for the 'big meal day'.

Do you need another clue?

We were leaving after the last "customer turkey was picked up," but I did not say that it was necessarily the last turkey. If you guessed 'big bird Tom,' you were right—he still had all his feathers and gobbler! One sure way to be certain the Thanksgiving turkey is fresh & going to be enough to feed everybody.

Surprisingly, Big Bird was comfortable with the vehicle's movement. The only time he ever gobbled was when Kathie turned on some music; otherwise, he was very content as a passenger, perched on his bed of straw.

With about two hours of the long trip remaining & well after nightfall, we were embarking on a stretch of highways that are known not to be everybody's cup of 'Christmas Tea' to drive on. City lights of Nashville, intertwining highways riddled with construction, & traffic that never seems to slow down, can be a little unnerving. Based on GPS guidance, the far-left lane adjacent to the construction barrier offered the least obstructed route. We were traveling at about 60 MPH when Kathie asked what the outside air temperature was. When I momentarily looked at the dashboard, she gasped when I said 44 degrees!

NO, not because of the temperature, but because a car in front of us appeared to have stopped for another vehicle ahead of them with car problems & was not able to get out of our lane completely.

We immediately realized we were about to collide with the vehicle ahead of us at highway speeds. Both of us have only a minimal recall of what happened in that extraordinary, brief span of time. The car in front of us became visually huge very fast! I remember a glance to my right periphery, & only seeing more cars flanking us on that side. We both remember the hard breaking & feeling the left-to-right inertia!

Having heard it before, I think my mind, in that microsecond, was expecting the breaking glass & ripping steal. WITH HEARTS PALPATATING, we glanced at each other, wondering what had just happened! Still being briskly moved along by the traffic, we were unable to see what else might have happened behind us.

We were both numb & nearly speechless, realizing that, physically, our lives were spared & our car somehow never got so much as a scratch. Once on the other side of Nashville, I let Kathie drive the rest of the way.

We arrived in the wee hours of the morning & found our way to the prepared sleeping accommodation at our children's home. Trying to get to sleep was difficult because, like a movie theater in the dark, I kept seeing our near-miss event replaying on the screen of my mind.

At this point, we could speculate that it was the grace of dry roads, new tires, our driving skills, or just good luck.

Maybe if I read, my mind will wander somewhere else & I can fall asleep. Going to God's Word, I wanted Him to give me some understanding of how things happened on the road back there. While reading the Gospel of John, chapter 10, my search for understanding came to an end.

*The question that comes to mind...
Is God Sovereign?*

Verse 39, "Therefore, they sought again to take Him: but He escaped out of their hand."

I have always been intrigued by this verse about how Jesus slipped away (without a scratch), and it also implies "again," as if this was not the first time it had happened.

One must wonder how many times we may have been saved & not even known it.

Oh, but what if our course hadn't turned out the way it did?

You know, we did talk about it the next day around the Thanksgiving table & also chuckled a little bit.

The obvious was that if the EMS arrived at the scene of the accident, & there were two deceased people, they would have known what to do with the bodies, but what to do with the gobbling turkey in the back of the van might have been a challenge for them.

Seriously, though, if I were not here typing this now, would it be accurate to use our end-of-life experience to say that God is not SOVEREIGN & IN CONTROL?

Please let me take a few more minutes to go to a different recorded account in the Bible than the one above. To bring this home, let's use the same person but different events, & then ask the same question. The setting is the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Matthew 26:50 But Jesus said to Him, "**Friend, why have you come?**" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.*

Since this is the Christmas Season, you may remember other times when God's Sovereignty shows up, starting with Joseph & Mary's exodus with Jesus from Egypt, escaping the clutches of Herod.

*Let's go back to the garden setting & see how Jesus weighs in on His Heavenly Father's Sovereignty. Just a few verses down. **Matthew 26:53 "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"***

It sounds to me that Jesus was NOT TEACHING that our circumstances define God's Sovereignty. The conclusion is this: God was in control whether Jesus slipped away or was seized and led away.

We do give Him praise and thanksgiving for His saving grace on the road that night. Likewise, if you hear someday that Kathie & I have taken our last breath, don't let that define for you that God is not sovereignly in control.

I know this was more of a post-Thanksgiving story, but it is true just the same.

Let us end on a Christmas note.

Again, this is the truth. Many only know Jesus as a baby in a manger. If that is true of anyone reading this, then our sincerest hope is that you will come to know & embrace Him as Lord & Savior.

This may be the fault of some religious faiths that have enshrined Jesus, The Christ, as a baby still in a cradle with a halo about His head. (I wonder sometimes how Jesus feels about that.)

We don't usually remember our loved ones as they were when they were babies, but rather who they were in maturity, so why not Jesus? Don't get me wrong, the nativity is a good reminder of how Jesus arrived, but the rest of His story is where the emphasis is! The emphasis of our relationship with Him is not what it was when we were born, or even as a child, but rather who we are when we slip from this life to find ourselves face to face with Him.

Please stay with me for just another half a minute.

Speaking of God's Sovereignty, these thirty seconds could alter the destination of your eternal destiny.

Back where we started, but several verses prior.

The Gospel of John 10:26-30 in the words of Jesus Himself...

"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; NEITHER SHALL ANYONE SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and NO ONE IS ABLE TO SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY FATHER'S HAND. I and My Father are one."

While once a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, He is now the Great Shepherd of our souls, ruling with supreme authority & prophetically speaking His absolute Sovereignty over each individual's eternal destiny.

To this, we would say, ring those bells!

Not because santa claus is coming (NOT TRUE), but because Jesus is coming (NOT AS A BABY AGAIN), but as the GREAT SHEPHERD rendering precise judgement!

Two questions remain.

Do you know His voice now?

Will He know you then, when face-to-face?

We trust you experience a most meaningful Easter this year.

Knowing that Jesus IS The Risen Christ.

Conquering both the power of sin & eternal death.

KNOW HIM NOW

**In His love & ours,
Tim & Kathie Bennett**

What Jesus's followers experienced is still commonplace for many today who disagree with how some life events unfold. Disappointed, frustrated, scared, angry at God & leaving the faith & their first Love, Jesus Christ. Turning high tail & morphing into a slow fade.

The spiritual wind can be quickly sucked from someone's sail when we start second-guessing God's sovereignty based on our life experiences.

Jesus's life after the cross was a good example of how He came alongside His disciples & followers. His passion, birthing within us, compassion for fellow believers who need to be built up in the faith.