

Paths

A Two-Minute Thought by Eric

My wife, son, and I have lunch with my in-laws pretty much every Sunday afternoon. We've been doing this for almost 10 years now. When we've finished eating and visiting, we usually go home. There are really only two obvious paths to get from their house to our house and we take one or the other almost exclusively. There is no reason to veer off of our normal path to get from Point A to Point B, so our short trip (about 5 minutes) is pretty predictable.

Until last Sunday.

We were driving home as usual when my wife tells me that she and Owen (our two-year-old) play a game sometimes where he will tell her which way to turn (as he is learning left from right). Apparently he has become quite an accomplished back seat driver. So, I play along and we turn where we normally wouldn't turn. Moments later, my wife observed an older lady kneeling on her driveway next to her trash can. She said, "I wonder if she might need help?" We felt it was appropriate to turn around and at least ask if everything was okay and so we did.

We pulled up to her driveway, rolled down the window, and asked if she was okay or needed any help. She needed help. My wife jumped out and went to help her and then I got out moments later also to help once I had moved the car to a better spot. She had lost her balance while trying to put away some trash and was having difficulty getting back up. We assisted her and she was thankful saying that God must have sent us to help her.

At that moment, I knew she was right. There was no "reason" why we would have taken that particular path any time, let alone this time. We had never taken it before in nearly 10 years. But the one day we take that most unlikely path and my wife catches a glimpse of someone who might need help – we were there to respond. Some people would call that a coincidence. But God knows better. We were the people who needed to help. We were put there right at that moment for a reason. Who knows how many others drove by seemingly unaware that anything was wrong?

I asked my wife how it felt to be used by God. "Kinda freaky", she said. "But kinda cool." And it was. It is yet another example of God's ability to seamlessly weave life together while giving us the privilege to see Him at work, to see the connections, and to appreciate the different paths He takes us on.