

It's All in the Script

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Everybody is concerned about details in various aspects of life. I like overseeing the details of my life to make sure I'm going in the right direction.

If you walked into my wife's craft room, you would see how important details are to her. If you would then walk into my office, you would see how flimsy I regard the depths of details.

I don't have to have everything in proper order to be happy with what I'm doing. My idea is, if I can't find what I need, I probably don't need it.

My wife and I enjoy watching movies together. We prefer recording the movie and watch it later, because we can skip through all those lousy commercials that are so annoying.

When we're watching a program or a movie, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very caught up with the details of the story. I just like watching something

for its entertainment value.

But not so with my wife. Every aspect of that program is greatly detailed by her. She knows every aspect of each character and knows who committed the crime from the very beginning, which baffles me.

Every once in a while, a character will do something and my wife will say, "Why in the world did they do that? Don't they know better?"

Being the husband that I am, I cannot keep myself from responding to a query. I usually say something like, "Well, my dear, it's in the script, and they read the script."

She usually looks at me with one of "her looks," and I usually regret saying what I just said.

No matter what the program is, there will always be some point where she will question the integrity of the

character. "Why," she usually says, "did that person do that?"

While watching a program, I enjoy the overall story, whereas my wife is more concerned about each detail of every character in that story. How she does it is beyond my guess machine. I like to follow the story stage by stage, whereas my wife asks a question at each stage of the story.

We watched one of our favorite programs this past week when something happened that I didn't see coming, my wife said, "Why in the world would they do something like that? That is the most ridiculous thing that anybody could do."

Then she turned her head, looked at me, and very seriously said, "And don't you dare tell me that it's in the script."

Not too long ago, I did something that drew my wife's attention, who queried me by saying, "Why are you doing

that?"

I looked at her with a very thoughtful look on my face and said, "Well, my dear, it's in my script."

I heard her mumbling, "I wonder who wrote his script?"

Later on that day I was reminded of a verse of Scripture. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).

God has already written the script of my life and as I yield to him I begin to discover what that is. The greatest tragedy of human life is rebelling against God's script for me.

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Rich Strike and David

My beloved and I try to watch the Kentucky Derby every year.



Dawn Reed

LORD looks at the heart."

One of the pre-race shows mentioned an unknown horse by the name of Rich Strike. He'd had been added to the roster a few minutes before the deadline on Friday night. He hadn't won anything significant. His odds were 80-1.

The horses lined up, and before we could say "lickety split," they were off. Summer is Tomorrow took the lead and then I couldn't tell. They were all bunched together.

Suddenly, a horse burst through the middle of the pack and sailed to a glorious finish. The winner of the 2022 Kentucky Derby was Rich Strike! What a win! An unknown. A last minute add-in. A horse with 80-1 odds. It Was. Awesome.

Underdog Rich Strike reminds me of a story that happened thousands of years ago where all the toplineers were assembled and someone was brought in at the last minute.

In I Samuel 16, Jesse lined up his prized sons. Out of this fine selection of men would come the next king. The prophet stood before each one. None were chosen. God told Samuel, "People look at the outward appearance, but the

There was one more son, out in the field, keeping sheep. It was the biggest event for the family, yet they hadn't even deemed him worthy enough to come into the house. He was too young to consider. He hadn't had any victories or slain any giants. Yet. Now, suddenly, he was called to join the group. He would also be a contender, though no one thought he had a chance.

God knew what was inside the young man. When others would have counted him out, God had a plan for his life that would exceed everyone's expectations. That young man, David, would go on to be a giant slayer and the king of Israel.

On Friday, Rich Strike wasn't going to be included in the race and then suddenly on Saturday, he was lining up with the rest of the award winning three-year-olds. The odds were against him.

If you are feeling like an underdog, take heart. That's when the story is the best! The Bible is filled with stories of God using unlikelys: fishermen, farmers, shepherds. He can even use a donkey (Numbers 22)!

I guess you can't judge a horse by its cover.

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