# THIS WAS NOT THE PICTURE IPAINTED!

- Celebrity Chef Paula Deen
- Celebrity Golfer Tiger Woods
- World Champion Cyclist Lance Armstrong
  - Olympic Figure Skater Tonya Harding

This was not the original picture that they painted!

We all make plans but we have no control over the outcome.

Could it be that the ending is more important than the beginning?

The Bible is full of people who stories did not turn out the way the painted them.

## Joshua 5:6 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> For the sons of Israel walked *forty years* in the wilderness, until all the nation, that is, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not listen to the voice of the LORD, to whom the LORD had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

# John 11:3-4 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus *heard this, He said,* "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

# Luke 1:26-32 (NASB)

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

#### Luke 1:26-32 (NASB)

<sup>28</sup> And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

#### Luke 1:26-32 (NASB)

<sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

So many people in the Scriptures had painted a visual picture of how life was to be but what they painted and what God painted was two different pictures!

#### Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

God is more concerned about the outcome than He is with the beginning. The beginning is temporary but the outcome is eternal!

One guarantee in life is that we will all have to deal with difficult situations.

#### Genesis 37:5-8 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had;

#### Genesis 37:5-8 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

- It took the Israelites 40 years in the wilderness before going to the Promised Land.
- Lazarus died.
- Mary's Son was crucified.
- Joseph, was thrown in a hole, sold as a slave, accused of rape, thrown into prison.

Not the Israelites, not Mary and or Lazarus, not Mary, and not Joseph painted the correct picture that God had for their lives.

## Point #1 God will never leave you or forsake you.

- He was with the Israelites while crossing Red Sea, in the wilderness.
- He was with Mary & Joseph.
- He was with Lazarus.
- He was with Joseph.
- And He is with us!

#### Point #2 God knows the plan.

• When our lives are shaped around our plan, then our concentration is on the plan and not on God.

## Point #3 Never forget who you are to serve.

• To often our lives are dedicated to serving our plan, yet we are called to serve God.

# Point #4 Never allow your plans to become your idol.

• When we live our lives trying to achieve our expectations with regards to our plans, we put our plans over God then the plan becomes an idol.

# Point #5 Understand that God never changes.

• Our plans can change, but our God never will for He is the same God today, that He was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

Point #6 No matter always remember that God will do more for you than you could ever ask or think.

• Most plans don't allow for second chances, but God does.

Point #7 Always remember if God before you, then who or what, could ever be against you?