



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



Murphy's Law

Most of us have heard the term "Murphy's Law," which is better stated, "If anything can go wrong, it will!" The term was alleged to be born at Edwards Air Force Base's North Base in 1949.

Captain Edward A. Murphy was an engineer working on Air Force Project MX981. This project was designed to see how much sudden deceleration a person can stand in a crash. It is rumored during the project after finding a transducer was wired wrong, he cursed the technician responsible and said, "If there is any way to do it wrong, he'll find it." The contractor's project manager kept a list of "laws" and added this one, which he simply called "Murphy's Law."

We've all had times when we became firm believers in "Murphy's Law." It is when seemingly everything that could possibly go wrong in our particular situation "goes wrong!" It is the day your spouse of twenty years gives you the news he or she no longer wants to be married. It is the day you had your follow-up doctor's visit and found the test results revealed cancer.

In one way or another, we've all had our Murphy's Law moments! The Bible tells us it rains on the just as well as the unjust; but when the rain pours, we all sometimes ask, why me?

The Bible speaks about someone who experienced the personification of Murphy's Law, complicated by one bad experience after another. He experienced the pain of betrayal by one friend and denial by another. At the end of his worst day, he felt the loneliness of desertion, the brutal agony of beatings, and the slanderous accusations of false witnesses who appeared before him in a kangaroo court, sentencing him to death on a cross. Anything that could have gone wrong went wrong.

But the Bible tells us Jesus "humbled himself,

and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:8) And through what seemed to be Jesus's worst day on earth, God brought a day of victory. Through His death we have salvation. Instead of calling it a day of dread or dismay, we gratefully call it Good Friday.

As believers go through the "Murphy's Law" moments of life, we have hope that this same Jesus is with us during our worst days and has promised never to leave nor to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5b). What does this mean in our Murphy moments? It means we still serve a God who, in our worst experiences, is able to do above and beyond all we can think or imagine in our lives so ultimately He is glorified (Ephesians 3:20).

During the challenging moments in our lives, even when we make mistakes, Jesus is right there with us. He is our Advocate (1John 2:1b); and as stated in Hebrews 2:18, He is one who is familiar with our sufferings and temptations. He is able to provide the strength to be victorious in every bad situation so we can know "All things work together for good to them that love God . . ." (Romans 8:28a)

Your circumstances may not be nearly as horrific; your day may not be half as bad as Jesus' Friday was! Nevertheless, whatever your day may hold — whether Friday, Monday, or any other day of the week — our Lord is able to turn it into a good day! Our celebration of Resurrection Sunday, which the world calls "Easter Sunday," is a reminder to us no matter what we are going through, we can celebrate in the knowledge our Fridays lead to Resurrection Sunday.

- *Dr. L.W. Edwards*

How to Shipwreck-Proof Your Life

On March 1, a U.S.-bound cargo ship sailing from Germany sank in the Atlantic Ocean. Unlike the typical cargo ship, the *Felicity Ace* carried about 4,000 automobiles. The vehicles had been manufactured by Volkswagen Group and some of its sub-brands.

Among the thousands of VW, Audi, Porsche and Bentley vehicles aboard the *Felicity Ace* were 85 new Lamborghinis. If you're not familiar with the brand, Lamborghini is part of Volkswagen's premium group. The brand is known for its raging bull logo and the distinct designs of its ultra-expensive, ultra-exclusive sports cars.

Lamborghini produces three vehicles. At the top of its model range is the Aventador LP 780-4 Ultimae, a special edition worth considerably more than the base model's \$498,258 price. The 15 copies aboard the doomed cargo ship were at the end of their production cycle. No more would ever be produced.

Then the *Felicity Ace* sank. Fifteen priceless pieces of automotive art were lost forever.

"No problem," Lamborghini said. The brand's CEO dusted off the blueprints and restarted the assembly line so the lost supercars could be replaced.

Even though the price and limited production run of the original models suggests they are special, their actual value is relative to the manufacturer's ability to replace them. (Not sure about you, but knowing the manufacturer can produce another model exactly like mine would make me think twice before handing over half a million dollars for a "special edition.")

If you have ever lost a loved one, you know people cannot simply be replaced like cars. Every single person is a special edition. When someone dies, they cannot be remanufactured to live another lifetime on Earth. We will never see them again until eternity. Their legacy is the only memory they leave behind.

This is why the death of Jesus was such an earth-shaking event. He was the exact image of God, the original God in human form. He was the only One in human history of whom God said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." His miracles and teaching led followers to

believe He was the long-awaited Messiah who would save them from their enemies. But now the show was over. He was gone — forever. He would never live again. All their hopes and dreams were buried and sealed in His grave.

Two days passed. The excitement surrounding Jesus' public execution had begun to fade. To His followers, it seemed He was nothing more than a shipwrecked Savior. This ship and the fate of their faith were lost forever at sea.

But on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead. The cold, sealed tomb which held His body was empty. The stone which guarded the entrance had been rolled away. Jesus was alive!

Suddenly the tables turned. The faithful followers who had been stunned into silence by Jesus' death now whispered with excitement about His Resurrection. The ship bearing the cargo of their eternal hopes had emerged from the depths of death unharmed. Their hope lived again! This news changed everything.

The Resurrection of Jesus can change everything in your life as well. Your hope for the future, your fear and anxiety in the present, and your guilt from the past are like the cargo on the *Felicity Ace*. Have you placed your cargo on a sinking ship? Trust in yourself, and both you and your cargo will be doomed. Trust in the wisdom of others, and you will face a similar fate. But when you trust in Jesus, you and your cargo will be completely safe. It is not too late to make a cargo transfer. Won't you commit the safekeeping of your life and its cares to Him today? Not even death itself could sink Him. He is more than able to carry you.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for dying on the cross to pay for my sins. Thank You for your resurrection from the dead. Please help me to trust You for the safety of my hopes and dreams. I commit my fears about the present, my guilt about the past, and my hope for the future to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

