

## 83. *Closed-No Entry*



A long-anticipated breakthrough fails to materialize. When the expected short cut in the track is closed off, there is a diversion and the route planner is frustrated. The flight is cancelled. A trusty helper declares their intention to quit you team.

No theology or glib maxims comfort the sense of inner turbulence and anguish one feels. Where will the energies and resources come from to deal with this new and unwanted challenge? Inertia weighs in and the urge to set up camp and feel sorry for oneself imposes their unwelcome presence.

We have been through such situations before; the script of our life has not been snatched out of the Father's hands, despite appearances. This current act in the drama - narrative of our life was foreseen from the perspective of divine omniscience.

Heaven's winds have changed in compass direction. We are now bound for ports unknown; we sail under "sealed orders" for reasons currently unknown to us.

So to our crew of faith, we add positive expectations and good cheer, on the docks we leave dread and pessimism. "Praise the Lord, Oh my soul, "we command our drooping spirit as David years ago when he had no inclination to worship. Our anchor in all this is that we know that the Father is for us, and His intentions can't be other than good.

## Reference:

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me bless his holy name. Ps 103:1

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

Is 43:19

Jesus said, “ **I am the way**, the truth and the life” Jn 14:6

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QSG1ymbEzs>

Wells Cathedral Choir sing this beautiful hymn, splendid photographs accompany the rendition

*Lead, kindly Light, amid th'encircling gloom, lead Thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead Thou me on!  
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.* J H Newman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkbUr2rMSsk&feature=related>

*Go the Distance*, song from Disney's Hercules movie

*and I'll stay on track  
No I won't accept defeat  
It's an uphill slope  
But I won't lose hope  
Till I go the distance  
And my journey is complete*

1Cor 16:5-9 Paul's travel plans are declared but circumstances force him to change them, his opponents subsequently accuse him of inconsistency

Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*

The protagonist looks at a very deep perilous river blocking his route

“These troubles and distresses that you go through, in these waters are no sign that God has forsaken you, but are sent to try you, whether you call to mind past deliverances and blessings, and trust to God in your distress’.

As he takes to the waters he finds once he is in very deep a line of rocks elevate him like invisible stepping-stones enabling safe crossing

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRUCgpOv9Ck>

*One Step At a Time* Jordin Sparks

When you can't wait any longer  
But there's no end in sight  
It's the faith that makes you stronger  
The only way we get there is one step at a time

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQx28iadUc8&feature=like-suggest>

Because He lives

*Because He lives  
I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives  
All fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zo3fjYtS-o&feature=related>

God Will Make A Way Don Moen

*God will make a way  
When there seems to be no way  
He works in ways we cannot see  
He will make a way for me  
He will be my guide*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SmXHo0TzOA&feature=fvsr>

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah Katherine Jenkins

She has sold millions of CDs and shares her testimony and then sings

*Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer  
Pilgrim through this barren land*

*Let the cloud and fiery pillar  
Guide me all my journey through*