

Weekly Meditation, October 21, 2009
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Joy at Sudden Disappointment

Someone once asked a great sheikh what Sufism was: “The feeling of joy when sudden disappointment comes.” Don’t grieve for what doesn’t come. Some things that don’t happen keep disasters from happening. ~Rumi

Yesterday someone told me a story about their travels in Scotland. He was heading to the airport to catch his flight back home to Texas and had plenty of gas for the trip. What he hadn’t planned on was the 2-hour traffic delay he got stuck in. He ran out of gas. A kind soul gave him a lift to get some gas, he got back to his car, and finally arrived at the airport only to discover that they had just closed boarding for his international flight – even though the plane was still there! His first inclination was to feel frantic, upset, and distraught, wondering how and when he would be able to get home. But then he decided to just breathe and try to relax. In less than an hour another flight, which was about to depart, released a few open seats and he got one of them. It turns out that this new flight was a direct one and got him home sooner than the original one would have!

We have agendas that we try to impose (sometimes with force) on the unfolding of our days. We have plans. We have expectations. We have goals. We have stuff that just has to get done! But you can’t help but wonder how differently the day – and our very lives – might unfold if we left a little space for the guidance and working of Spirit. Sometimes God has mercy on us and messes with our plans. Sometimes God bulldozes down the barriers we have in place because God loves us so much. Sometimes God does for us what we can’t do for ourselves. Maybe we could consider leaving Spirit some wiggle room today.

Prayer: Beloved One, let me be content to be your follower today. Remind me that I don’t always have to be the line leader. Hush the anxious voices in my head that think they have to have all the answers. Help me be okay with the questions. I trust you to guide me today. Amen.