

The Accident

Once upon a time there were three young men named David, Jeff, and Ed. Now these were unusual young men because while they lived during the days when most men their age were living for pleasure with drinking, girls and the things money can buy, these young men had a sincere desire to obey and serve the Lord. They weren't perfect, and they had their issues, but their hearts' desire was to please the Lord.

Well, one day the demonic prince over the area where they lived, which was called Champaign-Urbana, decided he would call in three of his special agent demons for a conference.

"Fellow demons," he began, "I have been observing three young men in our area. You have tried to tempt them, distract them, and discourage them. None of this has worked. They are still intent on serving the enemy. I fear they may be a great threat to our plans in the future. So I want them eliminated. They are going to a conference this weekend and will be even more of a threat after that. I want you to arrange a fatal accident for all three. That will take care of them permanently."

The demons nodded their heads in evil glee. Arranging death was their favorite assignment. And so they went off to plan exactly how they would accomplish this.

Meanwhile in the heavenly realm, the Lord, who was well aware of the demonic scheme, had his own plans already made. He summoned the guardian angels of the three young men and gave some special instructions.

"The enemy has planned the death of three of my choice servants. He has guessed they will be a great threat to his kingdom. He has guessed correctly; therefore, his plans will not succeed for I have other plans for these men which must be fulfilled. I am assigning you more angels to work in this situation but I want them to remain hidden so the enemy thinks his plan is succeeding. Only you three will stay with the young men to intervene when I tell you so their lives will be spared. I will allow the accident to happen which the enemy has planned, but with some modifications so it will accomplish my purpose and not those of the enemy."

And so the angels went off to make their plans and to prepare so all things would be ready at the appointed time.

The young men left the conference and headed home, west on Interstate 74. And as they drove, they were accompanied by six unseen spirit beings, three angelic and three demonic. The angels knew their plan and had their orders, but the demons were still trying to decide how they would accomplish their mission. Use a drunk driver? No, it was the middle of the afternoon. It would be hard to find one at that hour. Let's try ice and snow or blinding rain. No, it was a clear, warm day and they didn't have the power to change the weather on such short notice. How about an obstruction like road construction? No, they would have had to arrange for that weeks in advance. How about falling asleep? Yes, that would do. It would be a perfect set-up. The young men would be tired after the conference. The excitement would be over and they would start to relax. The warm sun and monotonous road would lull them all to sleep. The demons just have to arrange the precise place - somewhere out in the country in the middle of nowhere so rescue vehicles would take too long to reach them. Then it needed to be a place where they would hit something substantial - a concrete abutment on an overpass would do nicely. And if they could somehow arrange to have the seat belts off, they would be assured of victory. As the car sped along the highway, they gloated and congratulated themselves on their excellent plan. The angels also flying alongside the car kept silent. They had their instructions, "Do not interfere unless you are told."

Soon, the car came to the country. The towns were fewer and farther between. About 20 miles east of Danville, the demons decided this would be the ideal spot for the accident and began their nefarious work. They started weaving their spell of sleep. Jeff became sleepy so he stretched out in the back seat and soon was fast asleep.

Next, the demons started on Ed. One tried to get him to remove his seat belt, "Take your seat belt off, you'll be more comfortable." But he would not listen to them. They were losing precious minutes, each one bringing the car closer to a place where help would be available. So they gave up on the seat belt and concentrated on sleep. Finally, Ed drifted off as well.

"Now," they said with glee, "let's get David." First, "You're uncomfortable. You need to remove your seat belt." David removed his seat belt. The demons smiled at one another and nodded. "This will be easy," they thought. Now they whispered, "Sleep, sleep." But he wouldn't respond. They did not see the angelic hands over his ears blocking out the voices.

"Why won't he sleep?" the demons asked each other.

The miles were speeding by and still David would not sleep. Soon, they were in Danville.

"Not here," they said, "too close to the hospital." Then the car left the small city and was out on the road again. The angel removed his hands from David's ears. They were almost to Oakwood. The exit was coming up quickly, but the demons were arguing. One wanted to do it here. The others wanted to wait for the next overpass farther away from help. But the one demon was tired of waiting and while the two argued, he whispered, "Sleep," in David's now unguarded ears. David's head nodded. His eyes closed. But just before that happened, his angel had surreptitiously taken his hand and refastened his seat belt.

The angels received last minute orders. "Direct the site of impact and protect your charges. There are to be no head injuries, no nerve damage, and no disfigurements."

The car started off the road, the demons hopping up and down. They were sure to succeed. The concrete abutment was straight ahead.

But just then, David's eyes opened. "No! No! too soon," the demons yelled. David's angel guided his hands as he flipped the wheel. The car now headed for the dirt embankment, not the concrete abutment.

The car hit the dirt with a sickening thud and rolled part way up the hill, deflecting the force of impact, then rolled back down coming to a stop. In the back seat, Jeff's body hit the back of the front seat with great force. His ribs cracked and his abdomen was injured, but his head, cradled in his angel's hands, suffered only a small cut. In the front, Ed's angel held back the engine as it came crashing into the front seat. His right foot was cut and his left ankle severely dislocated. Next to him, as the steering wheel came at David, his angel pushed and crushed the wheel and the dash. David's chin had only minor cuts. But his right femur snapped under the pressure of the impact. His spine was compressed, but the angel supported his back and the spinal cord was not injured.

The demons had had their chance. Now the angels pushed them aside and took over. They formed a protective ring around the men and allowed no demon to touch them as they ministered to the men, keeping them conscious and alert and preventing shock.

The rest of the Lord's plan and the assignments of the other angels now became evident.

One of the angels had arranged an off-duty paramedic's schedule so she was passing by on the highway just after the crash. She stopped and did what she could to help.

Another person with a car phone was right there and called for help.

The crash was right at the Oakwood exit which had its own ambulance and emergency rescue vehicles. Within three minutes, they were at the site.

Jeff, whose lungs were starting to collapse from being punctured by his broken ribs, was now on his way to United Samaritan Hospital in Danville, his angel next to him all the way sustaining him.

Another angel had made preparations for him already. There had been another chest case that Sunday afternoon and the specialist and surgical team were there dressed and ready to go. As soon as Jeff was in the door, chest tubes were inserted, he was put on a respirator and his lungs filled with air again.

But he was still bleeding severely internally. His blood pressure started to drop. He was whisked to surgery. An IV had been started in the ambulance and now a unit of blood was hung. The

angel whispered to the doctor, "The spleen, the spleen." The incision was made. The artery tied off. The bleeding ceased. The badly bruise and broken spleen was removed. Jeff would live.

Meanwhile, David and Ed had arrived at the hospital. David's back was hurting severely. The demons had hoped for a fracture that would sever his spinal chord, but they had failed. One vertebrae was broken. It was a compression fracture and there were bone fragments in the spinal canal touching the spinal nerve. But miraculously, the nerve itself was not injured. He would need surgery and a metal plate in his back. His right femur was broken and would need surgery to insert a rod. But both would heal and David would also live.

Ed had not been so severely injured. He was taken to surgery for his ankle and foot. That was soon over and he was back in his hospital room.

That evening, the news reported, "Three young men were injured in a car accident near Oakwood this afternoon. They were all taken to United Samaritan Hospital in Danville. One is in critical condition. The cause of the accident is as yet unknown."

In the demonic realm, the Prince summoned his underlings. "I see by the evening news that you have failed in your mission. I am afraid that now these young men will be an even greater threat to us. Out! Out! Get out of my sight, you bungling fools!"

And in the Celestial realm, the Lord was smiling and said to His angels, "Well done". His beloved servants were safe. Yes, they were sore and hurting. There would be a period of recovery, but no lasting harm had been done. They would each bear scars to remind them of His love and protection and His plans for their lives would be accomplished. He would build character and strength in them and they would become mighty warriors and a great threat to the kingdom of darkness. The body of Christ would come together to support the young men and meet the needs and be built-up in the process. The whole situation would be a witness and a testimony to the unbelieving world. And in the end, God would receive the glory.

Jeremiah 29:11