

Monday - April 6

The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord shows him what to do.

Proverbs 16:9 (NLV)

A few years ago, my mom called me laughing hysterically about a goofy thing that had happened when she met my aunt for lunch. Trying to retell her story now will not do it justice, but it had to do with my mom accidentally leaving her large Diet Coke on the roof of her car and the massive spill that happened all over her windshield as she backed out of the parking spot. This may not sound funny to you but listening to how hard my mom laughed about the incident brought me joy. Through the unplanned accident, my mom and my aunt created a memory of hilarity.

After hanging up the phone with my mom that day, I thought about the value of silly accidents. Later that day, I sat down to the piano. I happened to pick the hymn “How Great Thou Art” as my first hymn of choice and it hit me about the term “accidentals.”

In music, you start off by understanding in what key the song is set. For example, “How Great Thou Art” is written in the key of B-flat major. This means that throughout the song you play with two flats: B-flat and E-flat. While those two flats are the rule, “How Great Thou Art” is laced with some surprise sharps and naturals. Surprise changes to the key are called “accidentals.” The accidentals in “How Great Thou Art” (and all songs) surprise the ear and make the chords stand out.

In music and in life, “accidentals” (at least the non-harmful ones) are disrupters and make our world richer. My mom and my aunt still giggle about that crazy lunch and laugh at the memory. Sometimes accidents are annoying, like when we break a shoe heel. But one thing is certain, you will always remember the day you broke your heel while walking up to a podium. We take for granted the norm; we remember the abnormal. Accidentals change the anticipated chords and create a memory and/or sound that is unforgettable.

Belinda

Prayer: “Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how GREAT thou art. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee. How great thou art. How GREAT thou art.” Amen.