

## Beauty (Providence) in the Mess

### I. The Tapestry—The Front is Beautiful, the Back is a Mess.

Life is often understood looking backward, but must be lived forward.  
Our capacity is limited.

Some things that seem meaningless are only understood in the length of time. God works with His purpose in mind.

**Rom 8.26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.



**27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**28** And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to **his purpose**.\* (πρόθεσις –that which is planned or purposed in advance.)



\* **Providence**

**29** For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



**30** And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.



**31** What then shall **we say** to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

His **Purpose** is calling Us. Providence guides the Master Weaver  
Your part of His story Your role in Eternity Not Always Clear

### II. Confused Lives Can Have Awesome Impact



**A. Example: John the Baptizer**

**Matt 11:2** John ...in prison ... **3** ... “Are you the one ...?” **4**  
And Jesus answered ..., “Go and tell John what you hear

and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”



11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



12 From the days of John the Baptist **until now** the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

## B. Example: Squanto (Tisquantum)

**Squanto** c. **1605**—Squanto, a Patuxet Indian lad is taken from his home near Plymouth, Massachusetts, to England, where he learns English, is part of an Indian exhibition, and generally longs to return to his home.

He is sent back to the Canadian and New England Coasts to act as an interpreter and a guide around **1614**. When the ships he is with finally reach the area of his village he is allowed to go free.

However, he is soon tricked onto another ship, which sets sail for Malaga, Spain, where he is auctioned at the slave market.

Fortunately, some Spanish friars are purchasing Indians and setting them free. **These Friars introduce him to Jesus.** He then uses his English to find a ship to England. Once in England, Squanto finds work again as an interpreter and guide on a trading ship.

He reaches New England in **early 1620** and is devastated to realize that his entire village is deserted, all the people were killed by a plague the previous year. He is the last surviving Patuxet. Alone and broken hearted he is befriended by Samoset, who is living in a neighboring Wampanoag village.

In **late 1620**, the Pilgrims arrive at the harbor. Almost half die that first winter. In the spring when the settlers are attempting to build homes and lay out a village, Samoset and Squanto make themselves known. Squanto chooses to live with the English. He shows them how to cultivate and cook corn, shows them where the fish and eels

are easy to catch, and teaches them the ways of the native Americans.

**Through Squanto, a peace treaty is negotiated with the Wampanoag people** which will last more than 50 years. Without Squanto, the Plymouth Plantation would probably have failed.

**Squanto died of a fever in November 1622** and asked William Bradford to pray for him “that I might go to the Englishman’s God in heaven.”

The first time he was captured he learned **English**. The second time, he was freed by gentle Christians who taught him to **trust in Jesus**. Though his own people had died of sickness, God had sent him to a new people who built their colony where his old village once stood.

**Without Squanto, there might be no America! PROVIDENCE**

**C. Example: Tamar**—That one crazy thing she did!

**Matt 1.1 NIV** A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac ... Jacob, Jacob ... Judah and his brothers, **3** Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, **whose mother was Tamar**, Perez the father of ...

**Gen 38.6 NIV** Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

Er and Onan were both bad. Judah wouldn’t give her his third son. She tricked her father-in-law by dressing as a prostitute and conceived. When Judah found out she was pregnant, he was going to have her burned to death, but she had undeniable evidence that Judah was the papa. Oh my.

Well, she didn’t just get one child, she got twin sons and Perez —whose name means “**Breakthrough**” was in the lineage of Christ!!

**Jesus wouldn’t have been born without Tamar!! PROVIDENCE**

I believe that if I were **John B, Squanto**, or **Tamar**, I would have had a hard time seeing the significance of my life. (Waymaker– Even when we don't see it, he’s working)

What on earth would I have thought when so many setbacks occurred surrounded by so much hostility?

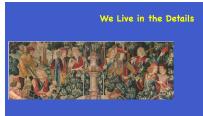
Where was the evidence of God’s loving Hand guiding my way?

But somewhere, beyond time and space was the **CALLING** of God's  
Eternal Purpose

Tapestries tell a story



We live in the details.



Behind what we see

Warp and Weft

Spirit intercedes when

we don't see Him..

Hero's Journey



*God never forgets... each tiny seed of love we have sown carries eternity within.*

*How can I tune in to His Purpose?*

### III. Gratitude "Forces" Open the Kingdom

#### A. Gratitude Prepares The Way for deliverance

**Psalm 50:23** The one who *offers thanksgiving* as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who **orders his way** rightly **I will show** the salvation of God!

**NIV** ... *sacrifices thank offerings*, **prepares the way** so that I may show him the salvation of God.

GRATITUDE invites the Kingdom! ... connects with **GRACE**.

### IV. Gratitude Enters into the Providential Purposes...

#### A. When Things Look Bad

**Daniel 6:10 NIV** Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home ... Three times a day he got down on his



knees and prayed, *giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*

## B. When You Feel Like You're Dying

[Jonah 2:7 NIV](#) When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. [8](#) “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. [9](#) But I, with a *song of thanksgiving*, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord.”

[10](#) And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

## IV. Ministry

OPEN MY EYES!!

Whatever we concentrate on concentrates on us.

Whatever we move toward, moves toward us.

**Our words become worlds.**

Let's come in THANKSGIVING

All who are weary... come to me and I will give you rest

All who thirst... come to me and drink and out of your belly will flow