

Pastor's Perspective: Don't count your chickens before they hatch



By Guest Columnist John Vaughn, Pastor, Cross Roads Baptist Church

Special to Pelahatchie News

We have a small flock of chickens in a backyard chicken pen. There are just six hens and a rooster, but they keep us furnished with eggs. A month or so ago, one of the hens began to stay in a nest and wouldn't leave. I reckoned that she was feeling her "motherly" instinct and wanted some baby chicks. It has been a long time since we let a hen set eggs and raise chicks, so I decided to give her some eggs and see what would happen. I figured that all of them might not hatch, and some of the chicks probably wouldn't survive, so I gave her a dozen eggs to sit on.

It takes 21 days for eggs to hatch. I noticed that during that time, she did not stay on the eggs as much as I thought she should. Normally a sitting hen will only leave the nest for just a few minutes a day, if that. But this hen might get off her nest several times a day. I began to wonder if she was keeping the eggs warm enough for the chicks to develop. Well, I waited about a week past the time for the eggs to hatch and no chicks hatched out. She went back into the pen

with the other hens!

That experience reminded me of the old saying, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." That was certainly true for our experience with this sitting hen. I began to wonder what the history was behind that saying. I did some research (i.e. Google search) and discovered that the phrase, or something similar, has been used for hundreds of years in many areas of the world.

One account goes as follows: This saying occurs in the fable "The Milkmaid and Her Pail." Patty, a farmer's daughter, is daydreaming as she walks to town with a pail of milk balanced on her head. Her thoughts: "The milk in this pail will provide me with cream, which I will make into butter, which I will sell in the market, and buy a dozen eggs, which will hatch into chickens,

which will lay more eggs, and soon I shall have a large poultry yard. I'll sell some of the fowls and buy myself a handsome new gown and go to the fair, and when the young fellows try to flirt with me, I'll toss my head and pass them by."



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At that moment, Patty tripped and lost the pail full of milk. Her mother admonished, "Do not count your chickens before they are hatched." That version goes back to the early 1500s.

The fable expresses hope for future gain without considering all the possi-

bilities of not achieving the goal.

In the Bible, James addresses that topic, as well. He says in James 4:13-14, "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." Then James clarifies what we should do in verse 15, "Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"

James is not saying that we should not make plans or have big dreams. What he is saying is that we should never leave the Lord out of our planning process. When our plans include following the Lord's will and dependence on His guidance, our success is virtually assured.

We thought it would be fun to have some baby chicks, but our plans did not depend on those eggs hatching out. As we go through life, we should always include in our planning process a complete dependence on the Lord and His will for us.

The restrictions imposed by COVID-19 are being lifted. As soon as you can, be sure to take your family to church!



Due to the COVID-19 virus, all services and activities at Cross Roads have been suspended until further notice. Please join us for our "On-line Services."

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m. at CrossRoadsPel.org

Wednesday Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook page

Morning Devotions
7:30 a.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page

"The Church has not been closed...the Church has been deployed!"
(601) 546-2297 • www.crossroadspel.org



Pelahatchie
Baptist Church

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www.pelahatchiebaptist.com

Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am, 6:00 pm • Wednesday Youth & Children 6:00 pm Adults 6:30 pm



PELAHATCHIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We welcome you to worship with us!

The Shelter-in-Place order has been lifted, and we are opening our doors on June 7th, 2020.

WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 11:00 A.M.

This will be the only open service until further notice.

Please wear a face mask to protect yourself and others.

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