

Getting on the Wrong Plane

Max Lucado, a best-selling Christian author and preacher at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, has written almost 100 books with 100 million copies in print.

It's hard to find a Christian bookstore where Lucado's books aren't prominently displayed on the best-sellers' rack.

This brilliant writer and preacher stumbled into a situation where he was reminded how dangerous it can be to follow the crowd.



He arrived at the airport for a morning flight and made his way to the gate. The hour was early, and he was extremely tired, so he soon found himself dozing off while waiting to board the plane.

He was aroused from his sleep by the noise of a crowd moving toward the jet ramp. So Lucado gathered his belongings and found his seat on the aircraft. He again found his eyes heavy and slipped off into another nap.

When he awakened to the bright morning sun gleaming through the window, he heard a peculiar message. He was headed to Denver, but the flight attendant was announcing their estimated time of arrival in Houston.



Upon further investigation, he discovered he had boarded the wrong plane. His slumber at the gate caused him to join the wrong crowd of passengers, and his inattentiveness aboard the plane sent him in the wrong direction.

He is obviously much more cautious these days, but he learned an unforgettable lesson at 30,000 feet: Simply following a crowd that seems to be going in the right direction might take you to the wrong place.

In air travel, it's a correctable situation, but in other situations – including our spiritual lives – it could be a much more difficult, or even irreversible, mistake.

As Christians, we're specifically instructed not to conform to the ways of the world (Romans 12:2), but the pull of the crowd can be hard to resist. From what we wear and what we watch to where we hang out and who we hang out with, we're under a lot of pressure to follow the crowd. Much of the time, that which draws us closer to the crowd only places distance between us and God. That's why we're called to walk a different path.

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None of us wants to feel as though we're missing out, sitting on the sidelines while everyone else is having fun. But going Christ's way instead of the crowd's doesn't mean we lose out. What He offers us is infinitely more than we could hope for by following anyone else. Living a life that doesn't always adhere to the principles favored by the masses becomes a lot more manageable once we accept this.

Jesus' disciples are good examples. Because they wholly trusted in Jesus and understood why it was necessary to commit to loving Him more than the world, they were able to give up worldly gains in place of something much greater – salvation, a renewed relationship with God and eternal life.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes (Psalm 118:8-9 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter