

## Saved by a Flat Tire

On May 11, 1996, Domingo Pacheco had a major problem. He was on a tight schedule to catch his plane out of Miami when the left rear tire of his 1985 Cadillac blew out on the Palmetto Expressway.

For nearly an hour, he sweated under the hot Florida sun as he struggled to change the tire. With the soot from the tire still clinging to his hands, he answered a call on his cell phone.

It was his mother, and she was overjoyed to hear his voice. He explained how the flat tire caused him to miss his flight.



She shouted, “Turn on your radio. The plane you were going to be on just crashed in the Everglades. I’m glad you got a flat.”

Pacheco had been rushing to board ValuJet Flight 592, a regularly scheduled flight from Miami International Airport to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

The McDonnell Douglas DC-9 crashed into the Everglades about 10 minutes after taking off from Miami as a result of a fire in the cargo compartment caused by improperly stowed cargo. All 110 people on board died. The accident remains the deadliest in Florida’s history.

Pacheco should have been aboard that flight, but a flat tire saved his life.

Problems always seem to complicate our lives, but we should be mindful that some problems are actually saving us from graver consequences.

We can’t see into the future or predict how the permissive will of God may affect us. But we do know that our Lord holds the future in His hands.

He desires the best for us as believers in Christ, and that is proven by the home in heaven He has prepared for us.

The Bible confirms that. Jesus said: *In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you* (John 14:2 NKJV).

And that is a glorious future!

– Beecher Hunter