



“What do you think we should do?”

Many of you know that Chloe, our daughter Becca’s 13-year-old Golden Retriever-Lab, died a few weeks ago. Probably a week after that Becca called with the above question. Becca and Tom had been searching for a Golden Retriever-Lab mix puppy to help fill the void left by Chloe’s passing. (They have another Golden Retriever, Lola, who had only known life with Chloe and was quite “lost” without her.) They had found a puppy that fit the bill - AND it was in Minnesota, something they had not expected.

After listening the them describe the situation with the puppy and Lola, my answer was:

“When I have a big decision - like this - to make, one thing I do is look for signs. It appears you have a bunch of signs pointing in the direction of getting this pup. When it seem the signs are there, before I make the decision, I do what you just did and run it past someone I trust to give me unbiased advice. And then, if it still looks positive, I will pray something like, ‘Father, this is the direction I’m heading in, but if that’s not a good direction, please put up a road block that even I can’t get over or around.’” (My tendency - like most people’s - is to ignore roadblocks that God puts in my way when it’s something I want to do, so He’s got to make the roadblock an impenetrable one!) Then I told them, “I have seen God put those kinds of roadblocks up a few times.”

When the puppy people said they could actually deliver the dog to The Cities, (meaning Becca and Tom wouldn’t have to make the 8-hour round trip to SW Minnesota) they took that as another positive “sign,” and put money down to reserve the pup.

A day before the scheduled delivery, the puppy gal called and told Becca and Tom that her mom had given the pup to some other folks - and those folks wouldn’t give it back after learning of the mixup!

After their shock and huge disappointment subsided a bit, they said, “Seems like God put up one of those roadblocks you talked about.” I was really glad they viewed it that way!

About a week later - after Becca and Tom had found and purchased another Golden in Fargo - the puppy person from SW MN called them and said, “The folks who got your puppy said they’d give it back if you still want it.”

Wow! Some things are so bizarre that you couldn’t make them up if you tried!

But hidden in that bizarre incident was actually a very important message: Not only had God put up a roadblock to getting that first pup, He had now let them see the reason: He’d actually prevented them from getting a “bad” dog. (There’s no way anyone would have given up a “good” dog after just a week.)

Bottom line: That whole situation struck me as a good example of steps to take when you have a decision to make:

- Take some time.
- Look for signs pointing one way or the other.
- Check with someone you trust to give you their unbiased view.

- And finally, ask God to put up a road block if it's not His will. He will do that. (And make sure you don't try to "drive around" His roadblock. That NEVER ends well!)

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net