



DETOUR AHEAD

- Sign:** Detour Ahead
Characters: Narrator
Bubba and Junior (*brothers; Junior is the “smarter” one*), country bumpkins
Suzy, driver of another car
Props/Costumes: Bubba and Junior - overalls, straw hats; Junior is “driving”
Props: each “car” - two chairs set together;
Theme: Why do we have this detour?
Verse: Romans 8:28 “...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

Script

- Narrator:** We are on a journey--the journey of the Christian life. Bubba and Junior are travelers on that same road. Bubba and Junior may come from the hills of Arkansas, but they are learning lessons with us on that road to Eternal Life.
- Bubba:** Junior, maybe it's just my eyes playin' tricks on me, but I'm thinking that I can see our destination way up yonder...yes, sir...I'm sure I be a seein' something up that away (*points straight ahead*). Can't ye jest see how the sun bounces off them streets of gold and them pearly gates?
- Junior:** What I sees is that you's got a good imagination thar, Bubba.
- Bubba:** Hey, I'm serious. I really think that I see something, straight ahead.
- Junior:** Well, whatever it is, I estimate that we'll be there in about two hours, maybe less, if we continue on this road. I guess we're getting far enough on this road that maybe He allows us glimpses of what is ahead. Like—I don't know when it will be—but He showed us that He was gonna use us as travel guides for some of those who are just getting' on this Road to Eternal Life.
- Bubba:** I think I'm ready—don't you, Junior?
- Junior:** I think I'm ready—but I don't know about you, Bubba!
- Bubba:** Hey! (*insulted*)
(*Drive for a while*)
- Junior:** What's this? Another road sign? And the road is blocked off there ahead...
- Bubba:** (*reading carefully*) Detour. Detour?? This is the road we is supposed to be on. I know we haven't made no mistake about that!
- Junior:** “Detour” don't mean that you've taken the wrong road, Bubba. “Detour” means that we can't stay on the road that we're on—we is going to go a different direction—at least for a while.

Bubba: But why? If we keep going straight, we’ll get where we want to go... I fact, I see cars way up there on this very road...

Junior: The sign don’t say why—it just says that we is supposed to take a right turn here.

Bubba: But how are we going to know when to turn back that-away (*points toward what he thought was their destination*)?

Junior: I don’t know, Bubba. Maybe there will be another sign.

Bubba: Maybe? Maybe, you say? What if there ain’t another sign, Junior? What then? This detour is shorely going to make us late getting to our destination. In fact, don’t it look like this road will take us the easy route. In fact, it looks hard...long and hard.

Junior: Well, it looks as if it is intended as part of our road trip, like it or not. We’ve gotten in trouble before when we didn’t obey the road signs. So we’re gonna accept this detour with JOY, Bubba.

Bubba: But what about those people who be needing travel guides? They’re a-needing our help and wisdom, and we’ll be “who knows where” detouring! It just don’t seem right (*shaking head*).

Junior: We’ve learned already that what seems right to us ain’t necessarily RIGHT to HIM! Maybe we is going to learn more things on this detour than we would if we was just buzzing down that ole straight highway. Remember, the trying of our faith works patience.

Bubba: (*doubtful*) We probably will learn things, but I just ain’t sure I be a-wanting to learn them that way.

Junior: Talkin’ ain’t getting us nowhere, Bubba. Let’s jest go.

(Sharp right turn, bumpy road, Bubba’s being jostled quite a bit, saying “ow”, “ouch” “that hurt”; Junior’s whistling, smiling, getting bumped around too)

Bubba: There’s another “Detour” sign—now which way do we go? Right again? This road has been bad, but ...(*looking right*)...that one looks even worse! You think we’s being punished for something, Junior?

Junior: I’m just trusting that God has His purposes for us, Bubba. Here we go...(*hard right turn, more bumps*)

Bubba: What’s that ahead—is that another car, Junior?

Junior: If it is, I think they have pulled over. Let’s get a little closer... Oh, I see, there’s water over the road—no wonder they’ve stopped. Let’s pull up behind her.

(Bubba and Junior get out of their car)

Junior: Hi, there, Miss. Can we be a-helping you today?

Suzy: I don't know what to do. I've been pondering this road, and all that water, and I just don't know how to proceed. Obviously, I can't continue on the way I've been going...that water ahead is bound to overflow me! I don't know what to do, and I'm all alone *(begins to cry)*

Junior: Now, Ma'am, don't cry, Ma'am. I think we can lead you through this.

Bubba: Hey! We're gonna be travel guides someday...

Suzy: You are? *(She visibly brightens)*

Junior: That's right. Jest follow us. God says that He will be with us, and that the waters will not overflow us.

Suzy: He says that?

Junior: He sure does. Now dry those tears and get back in your car, and follow us.

(All get back in their cars, Junior and Bubba pass her and go slowly through the water)

Bubba: *(looking out the window, down at the water)* Wow! Those turbulent waters are scary.

Junior: Hey—are we making it through or not?

Bubba: So far so good. The water is about halfway up the door...

Bubba: Now it's about three inches from the bottom of my window...

Junior: Well, how's the car behind us doing?

Bubba: 'Bout the same. She's still following us.

Bubba: The water's going down now! We're gonna make it! We're almost through! Whew! *(looking back)* She made it too! She's smiling and waving! Here she comes...

(Suzy passes Bubba and Junior...and as she is passing...)

Suzy: Thank you so much, boys! I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't happened along! I'm going to buzz now! *(she drives off)*

Bubba: It was surely lucky that we happened to come by fer her!

Junior: When is you going to learn, Bubba? It weren't luck. Those detours were in our path for a purpose. Who know whether we were on this detour for such a time as this? We thought that detour was a terrible thing—but God meant it for good. He meant to use us in a way that we could have never imagined.

Bubba: God surely knows best, don't He, Junior?

Narrator: Bubba and Junior thought they knew where their life was heading—and then they bumped up against that detour. We, too, make our plans, and we think we know

what God is doing in our lives...when all of a sudden—DETOUR! Maybe its an illness, or loss of a job, or God says "no", or He moves us to another city, or we have a financial set-back...Whatever it is, it is an unexpected change of plans that we weren't counting on! Do we accept God's will with joy, or do we question Him and His purposes? The wonderful thing about knowing the Lord is that we know that He has a plan for us. His plan is good, to give us a future and a hope. And ALL THINGS are working together for our good—even our detours! He may use our detours to strengthen us, or change us, or show us our gifts, or, as in Bubba and Junior's case, He may use our detour to minister to someone else.