

Counting Chickens Before They Hatch

At the Battle of Shiloh Church in the American Civil War, Confederate forces under P.G.T. Beauregard had pushed the Union Army under Grant all the way back to the Tennessee River on the afternoon of April 7, 1862. Beauregard was pleased. The Union Army was reeling and he had them just where he wanted them. The following morning, he planned to push them into the river and to the marshes beyond, where they'd make easy targets and thousands could be taken prisoner. Beauregard, however, ignored reports that Grant's army was being reinforced and prematurely celebrated a "complete" victory.

Needless to say, Grant's Army was reinforced by two huge divisions in the middle of the night, enabling them to launch a surprise, devastating counterattack that crushed the Confederate assault. Confederate forces withdrew from the area and retreated to Mississippi enabling the Union to occupy the Mississippi river port cities of Memphis, Tennessee, and Corinth, Mississippi.

Have you ever counted chickens before they hatched? Explain below, or, think of an example from movies or literature.