

## Lessons through a windshield Part IX

### Service Plaza



Philippians 4:10-20 V 18

**Intro:** A service plaza sign is very welcome when you really feel the effects of those 4 cups of coffee, or when you are about out of gas in the car, or you just know all those joints won't ever work right again if you don't get out and walk around.

Well the Apostle Paul was traveling the narrow road and he stopped at a local service plaza, went in, walked up to the Burger King counter and was met by Ephaproditus, probably serving up whopper combos. Notice what V 18 says

*It says, But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

Really, he wasn't working at Burger King, he was actually there at the service plaza to deliver the sacrificial gifts of the people which was what Paul needed for the rest of his journey.

I would like to spend a few minutes today comparing a highway service plaza with a local church where I see some similarities. First,

A. They are both places of provision

1. On the highway we get fuel for the car, air for the tires, windshield washer fluid, new blades, food for our bodies fuel, rest, information about road conditions, help with directions etc.
2. At the church, we find spiritual food or fuel for our souls. **Thought:** God's Word is like a highway sign. You don't have to pay any attention to it if you don't care what happens to you.
3. So ignore a service plaza sign and you can easily run out of fuel. Ignore the service sign plaza of the church and you might run out of opportunity to find eternal life.
4. At the church we also find encouragement, physical food at fellowships, help with directions, warnings about dangerous situations to avoid, etc.

But notice carefully,

B. It is a place to visit only, not to live there

1. You can't pitch a tent and camp out at a service plaza forever. It is against the law.
2. The church is the same way. Church attendance is not the end of the journey. Mark. 6:30-44 V 31 (Notice the words **rest awhile**)
3. The church exists for a double purpose gathering and sending out. We go in to visit and gather in the provisions we need then we need to be sent out to carry on the ministry in a lost world.
4. Someone has described it like this. Two things should happen to the Christian- something happens in us and something happens through us.

C. Finally then, it is a place to leave in order to encounter the highway again.

1. **Remember**, the trip will never be successfully completed if we stay in the service plaza forever.
2. The ministry is never finished if we are content to stay in the safety of the church. The highway is a dangerous place and so is the world but it is one that must be traveled.

**3. Remember:** The gospel is not something only to go to church to hear - but to go from church to tell. **Therefore,** The business of the church is not to furnish a hammock for the lazy but yokes for the drawing of loads.

This means taking a load of the gospel message out of the confines of the service plaza and on down onto the highway of life.

So enjoy it when you are here, we want you to be refreshed and encouraged, refueled and prepared but we don't want you to stay here and get too comfortable either.

We want you to pull into this service plaza but we want you to pull out as well and take the gospel message to your little corner of the world this week.

Then we look forward to your return next Lord's day for more food, fuel, fellowship, fun, rest and enjoyment as you walk life's highway. May God bless your efforts in serving him this week.

**Remember:** Those on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone.

Closing thoughts: Maybe you have received Christ and are on the road to heaven. On the other hand maybe you have a family member or friend who has never made that stop at God's service plaza to get their tank fill with the gasoline of salvation.

If you have to or if you know someone who has not bee to this service plaza you can find out about it today so you can tell someone else about it tomorrow. Pull in and rest a spell as you read the road map laid out in the next few lines.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.  
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)