

Lessons through a windshield Part VIII

No Parking



Hebrews 12:1-3

Intro: The church is not to be a parking lot for unmotivated Christians. Our passage in Hebrews 12 says run the race and we can't run if we are parked in a pew. Lets think a while about this idea of parking or not parking.

I. Where not to park

A. In our old sins and self life II Corinthians 5:14-21

V 17 We are new creatures learning new things

V 20 We are ambassadors to go make appeals for Christ. To do this we can't park in the comfort of our old sins, our old desires, our old priorities etc.

B. We are also not to park in the spot called being satisfied with where we are spiritually. Paul wasn't!!

Philippians 3:12-14 V 13,14; We do need to think back on our lives and learn from our mistakes. We need to think about our disobedience long enough to seek God's mercy and then choose to "go and sin no more" Look back and learn but don't park back there.

Ephesians 4:11-16 V 13 *This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection. We are to constantly be maturing until we are mature .*

Thought: When growth stops, decay begins

C. We are also not to park in the being served section, instead move on to the servicing section pulling in only long enough for fuel to carry on. John 9:1-12 V 4

Thought: The Christian's place is on the front line, not on the sideline.

D. Don't park in **yesterdays victories** Lamentations 3:22,23 *The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day.*

Instead lets remember the words of this song and not try to lay our burdens down just yet. Lets continue to press on!! There are new areas yet to be conquered through God's new mercies each day.

You can not fight or win today's battles if you are resting on yesterday's battle victories. Yesterday's fight is over. Today's battle is today, not yesterday. If you would, just read the words of this song and be encouraged to keep on till you get home.

ONE MORE VALLEY

1. When I'm tossed on life's sea and the waves cover me,
And the clouds won't allow the sunshine through,
Then a voice seems to say, "Child, there'll be brighter day,
Don't allow the clouds to hide sweet Heaven's view."

CHORUS:

'Cause you've got one more valley, one more hill,
Maybe one more trial, one more tear.
One more curve in life's road, maybe one more mile to go,
You can lay down your heavy load when you get home.

2. Don't let Satan see your fears, learn to smile thru all your tears
Hold your head up high and give the world a smile.
Just be faithful all the way, it'll be worth it all some day,
'Cause it's all gonna be over after while.

CHORUS:

'Cause you've got one more valley, one more hill,
Maybe one more trial, one more tear.
One more curve in life's road, maybe one more mile to go,
You can lay down your heavy load when you get home.

II. Where to park and for how long lest the meter of opportunity run out

A. At the church Hebrews 10:24,25 But only long enough to

be encouraged
to learn more of God's ways and plans
to pray
to praise
to provide financial assistance so the work can go forward

B. In the lives of those who don't know Christ, park long enough to build a relationship with them for the Gospel vehicle and salvation can reach them. Here is how

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 Subject line: (Salvation)

Finally

C. Park for a lifetime in the parking lot of discipleship Matthew 28:19,20

Henry Drummond, preacher and author, was once asked to address a meeting of a select West-End Club in London. On his arrival he found his audience assembled and everything arranged for him to give his message. He commenced his address with these words: 'Ladies and Gentlemen, the entrance fee into the Kingdom of Heaven is nothing: the annual subscription is everything.'

The annual subscription is continued growth in knowledge and practice. That is the end result of discipleship, a life long process.

In closing: Are you parked where you are supposed to be?? Or are you parked where you shouldn't be. The Heavenly meter reader is making his rounds so lets be careful we don't get a ticket of defeat, despair, or guilt just for parking in the wrong place.