

Lessons through a windshield Part X

Soft Shoulder



Galatians 5:25 - 6:2

Intro: On a highway this sign indicates possible danger if we get off the road. In the Christian life it indicates a person prepared for ministry.

Thought: Wherever there is human need, there is opportunity to do a kind deed. Lets think about a soft shoulder as it relates to a Chr. First,

I. How a soft shoulder is formed

1. Through remembering our own past hurts and battles II Corinthians 1:1-4 **Thought:** Remember, it is the crushed grape that yields the wine.

II. What motivates the use of a soft shoulder?

1. The sight of human beings in need **Thought:** Don't wait for an opportunity to come; it's already here.

III. Who we can show one of these available signs to?

A. To the lonely

1. Milton once said, Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named not good. There may be lonely people here today and they may even have a smile on their face.

2. You can be lonely in a marriage, in a classroom of fun and laughter, at work etc. If you know someone who is lonely, why not offer a soft shoulder of friendship.

B. The bereaved Romans 12:9-15 V 15

You can offer the soft shoulder and you don't even have to say a word. A soft shoulder is found in the receiving line at the casket head and simply shows that I care enough to be here for and with you in your time of grief

C. Our young people

1. True, we need the rod for our children once in a while, in spite of what our liberal educators and Dr. Spocks try to tell us. It is Biblical.

2. **But** all rod w/o a soft shoulder once in a while has turned out more than its share of bitter, angry, resentful, rebellious, and disillusioned children.

3. The rod offers correction, and direction ,while the soft shoulder offers hope, love, and encouragement. So lets be careful of splurging when it comes to our young people but if we do, lets be sure its more of the **soft shoulder** than it is the **rod**.

D. The elderly

1. **Thought:** If we want some soft shoulders to lay our aged heads on as our years advance, we ought to prepare by offering one to those who have grown old before us.

2. True, some of the elderly are lonely and troubled because they have spent a lifetime being troublesome and cantankerous and Galatians 6:5 says *a man must bear their own load*.

3. But there are many elderly who could use a soft shoulder on which to lay a tired, lonely head. Lets try to remember to offer them one.

E. The burdened

1. Christ offer the ultimate in soft shoulder terms. Matthew 11:28
"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

However, have we offered a soft shoulder to for a burdened person to rest their weary heads on as they try to find the strength and courage to go on?

2. If we haven't, it may be because we don't know one another well enough to know if they may be burdened or what those burdens may be.

F. The overworked

1. This often happens in churches. People get tired because so many won't, or can't help and those few workers get tired.
2. If you can't help do the work, at least try to offer a soft shoulder for that tired worker to rest his weary head on while you whisper thank you for serving the Lord and let me pray for you.

G. To the growing Christian

1. The drop outs in our churches suggests to me that we have more often offered the cold hard shoulder of criticism for the mistakes of the young Christian,

than the soft shoulder of thanks, I'm proud of you, or of hope, encouragement, etc. Which have you gotten the most of in your Chr. life?

The soft shoulder can be very dangerous and even deadly on the highway. But for the groups we have looked at today, and others that may come to your mind, a soft shoulder might be just what they needed.

Take a minute and reach up and feel your shoulders. Are they cold and hard or are they soft and available and inviting? A sign just waiting for someone to come along and rest a head on??

In closing we know that Jesus has a soft shoulder for us to lay our troubled and fearful heads on. When we do He whispers gently in our ear, will you think about and agree with the following? He whispers, will you decide to do what it says and if so, you can find the hope of eternal life.

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)