

Mercy for Those in the Wrong Lane



I arrived in Columbus and sure enough I missed staying to the right and thereby missed staying on I-71! I had done this just 6 weeks ago and here I was, yet again, on I – 70 heading east toward Wheeling! But this time, it is 7 AM rush hour in Columbus. I exited on the first ramp, went past two streets and then crossed over 1-70. Now, I had



FOUR LANES of rush hour traffic to get through to reach the “promised land” lane that was called “to I-71 South, Cincinnati”. Now, let me tell you, this was not easy - perhaps the drivers in the lanes thought “You got yourself in this mess – don’t expect us to get you out of this” or “If you can’t drive an American made car, don’t expect any help from us!” or maybe the drivers had things to do and places to be and allowing my entrance would just slow them down or maybe just maybe they thought “you are never going to make it anyway – time is running out for you – it is a lost cause”! But four drivers DID choose to allow me to maneuver my way to that fourth lane and I thanked God for His protection and for those kind drivers.



And so it was, I spent most of the next 100 miles thinking about my Columbus adventure and about how I respond, not to drivers in cars, but to people in desperate need of knowing a Savior, the Way to eternal life. And I began to ask myself how many times I have failed to show the Way to the promised land with an attitude of “REALLY, you can’t expect God or me to forgive you – you aren’t welcome here in our fellowship –

how dare you show up here after what you did!” or “REALLY, you are not at all like me – you dress funny, you talk funny, you even have a “god” that you worship – I am scared of you, because you are different” or “I am just too busy right now, you know meetings and stuff, I can’t talk to you now about your need, maybe in a week or two” or “You are really a lost cause – it is too late for you – there is no hope for you”. **I stand accused of having thought these things, even though I never said them aloud.**

And so I prayed, Dear Loving Triune God, Thank you for your indescribable love and boundless grace. Forgive me when I have failed to share that love with others. Open my eyes to see others as people YOU love and help me to love them just as you love me. Give me arms that reach out to others and give me a voice that proclaims you as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36