



RUHL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER WEEKEND EDITION

August 21, 2020

“Thinking Out Loud” by Rev. Blaine R. Wenger

“On Your Right”

There is a scene, early on, in “Captain America: The” Winter Soldier” where Sam Wilson (Falcon) is running laps around the reflecting pool at the mall in Washington, DC. Every so often, a figure, Steve Rogers (Captain America), goes racing by, saying, “On your left.” Till it is all said and done, Sam has been lapped a number of times. We aren’t sure how many. But it is clear he has been left in the dust. You have to feel for Sam. Not many are going to keep up with Captain America, but in comparison, it was almost like he was standing still. Being left behind, so to speak, can be a bit demoralizing when you are doing well, especially, when you are doing your best. It is one thing when things are otherwise even. But, when one is left behind by someone that isn’t playing by the rules, when things don’t seem fair, it can really smart.

The other day, I was driving East on Route 30. I came to the red light where 30 and 896 intersect. If you are not familiar, there are two turning lanes, one right, one left, and two straight through lanes. Seems normal. There is one little oddity. Immediately after the intersection, the two through lanes merge into one. As many times as I have traveled through that intersection, there always seems to be a little bit of anxious driving drama. No one wants to get stuck behind some large, slow vehicle on the other side of the intersection when it goes down to one lane. I have seen many mini-drag races when the light turned green.

This time, I was in the left through lane, the vehicle to my right was a seemingly normal car, nothing that looked annoying to follow. The light turned green. I didn’t gun it, and I’m glad I didn’t. The car to my right proceeded normally, but to the far right, from the turning lane, a car shot out wide, going around us both! Swerving around us to gain that one spot. I was ticked! Then, to top matters off, once he got in front of us, HE drove slowly. UGH!! I don’t think my thoughts went so dark that I had anything to confess, but I definitely rebuked him quite roundly...for all the good it did! Miles of erratic driving later, he finally turned off Rt. 30 and I could go one with less aggravation.

How many times can you think, in your own experience, when you’ve been going about your business, minding your own business, and someone comes along that isn’t playing by the same rules as you and upsets your day? How many times can you think of when going about your day, where someone makes you look or feel foolish, or anxious? There probably are more of those



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REMINDER

[CLICK HERE](#) if you missed the Early Edition of the newsletter sent through email on Monday for information regarding:

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- Grove Services
- Scrapbook Discontinued
- New Church Directory
- God’s Clothing Closet
- Manheim Food Pantry
- Align Life Ministry Needs

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- Reflections
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moments than we realize. Most of the time, it won't be a superhero showing us up; and we won't have that momentary feeling there is about to be physical pain. But, honestly living by faith almost guarantees that we will experience moments that the world would call unfair, times when people ignore the rules, or play by other rules. People will "go around us," and "cut us off," to get ahead. The question is, how do we react? Do we do everything we can to get them back; to take them down? Do we sit and stew? Or, do we find a way to be "ok" in our own skin, despite what others do?

In Matthew 5:39, Jesus says, "Do not resist an evil person, if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." And Paul, in Romans 12:18, says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." It isn't always easy; sometimes it can feel like a bitter pill; sometimes we are making a mountain out of a molehill. But, no matter what, we are called to live so our lives are a witness to Jesus Christ. We aren't trying to pass people, left or right; we are to walk alongside, and lead them to Jesus. Work on that and it should take your mind off many of the things that might otherwise bother you. Actually, work on that, and you really will have something to show that will be pleasing to God.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Blaine

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

This Sunday, we have a special text; Matthew 16:13-20. In this passage, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say I am?" This is such an important question. One that we all need to wrestle with. So much depends upon it. Take some time to read this text and consider how you are affected by it. Hope to see you Sunday. Until then, be blessed.

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