

A Lesson Learned

Several years ago, I had a tire that lost air every day. I was stopping at least once a day to put air in this tire. I mentioned it to my husband that I needed new tires. He agreed and said he would go with me to buy new tires. However, the time was never right for over a month, and I continued to stop and put air in my tires daily. I began to get a little aggravated and so decided to take care of it on my own. I went to a local tire store and asked for their best tires. They said, "Michelin." I said, "I'll take 4 of them." When I arrived home, I told husband that I had taken care of the tires. He asked what kind I had purchased, and I told him. He became a little irate and said that those were the most expensive tires, and I could have gotten something cheaper. I just said, "I had to do it myself and this is what I chose." Then Christmas was coming, and we needed to get a tree. Once again, I was unable to get his help. So, I stopped at a tree lot and saw this most gorgeous tree. It was tall, full, and perfect. The man at the lot said, "That tree is expensive." I said, "Good." And I bought the tree. I arrived home with the tree, and we took it in the house. My husband raved about what an excellent job I had done to find such a beautiful tree. Then he asked the final question, "How much did it cost?" I said, "A lot, it's a Michelin." The next year we bought our last "real" tree and the next time I needed new tires he was not able to help me. and I bought them on my own and they were not Michelin's. Perhaps I was being prepared for that day when I would have to do it on my own.

Jesus needed Saul and he changed him.

Saul was on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:3-9 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?" "Who are you Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground but when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing. So, they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

Saul became Paul and the man who had once stood by at the stoning of Stephen and persecuted Christians became a man who wrote letters to followers from prison, who led a movement, who drew converts to Christ, a man willing to die for his Savior.

Lord, we ask your blessings on this day, be with us in all we do and say. Be with those who suffer illness and grief. Comfort them. Be with our church, help us to take in the stranger, to comfort and support those around us and to live lives worthy of followers of those who went before us. Be with our Pastor, bless his Ministry, grant him your blessings in all he does. Be with his family. Be with our Staff and Leaders guide and protect them. We thank you Lord for all you do in our lives, for the blessing of each day we are given, for all the mercies you have shown us, for the love and forgiveness you offer us each day, In Jesus name. Amen

Grace Epperson