

U Turns

When I was working, we covered five counties. The Field Representatives who had selected the sites would give us directions to the site. Now the directions started from Detroit. So, we would figure out how to get to places based on where we lived. Quite often there would be construction or mistakes that messed up the directions. One of our field reps was quite comical in his directions such as inserting “if you come to the railroad tracks, turn around, you went too far.” I became quite adept at u turns. I even persuaded a friend to do one on Van Dyke across 4 lanes after telling her “I do it all the time.” She did it and we didn’t get caught, but it was dicey there for a minute. I have become adept at u turns in my life also. When I was younger, I took a lot of u turns. When we realize we don’t like where we are going sometimes it is wise to turn back and try a different route. I have never been afraid to say, “I don’t like where this is going, let’s turn around.” Sometimes our pride gets in our way and so we keep going. One time, another nurse and I were trying to find a factory on the east side. We kept driving south, both convinced that we could not have missed it. Finally, she said, “either we missed it or we’re going to have to tread water.” We were headed for the Detroit River. We turned around and finally found the site. It is hard to admit we missed something or that we were wrong but sometimes, in life, a u turn is much more preferable than continuing the wrong path.

Stephen was stoned to death. In Acts 8:1 we read “and Saul was there, giving approval to his death.” In Acts 9:3-6 As Saul neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a great 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.”

This was the beginning of a journey for Saul who persecuted the followers of Christ, to then become Paul. As Paul, he brought followers to Christ and was one of the greatest leaders of the movement to follow Christ. Jesus saw him and used him. He turned him around. In life, a u turn is much more preferable than continuing on the wrong path. Through Christ all things are possible and as he was with Paul, he is with us.

Thank you, Lord, for lessons learned. Thank you for the gift of those who came before, who showed us the way. May we learn from them as we study your word. Be with those who have yet to know you, may we and our church be a beacon to them. Help us, Lord, as we strive to serve you, may all we do be pleasing and acceptable to you. We thank you, Lord, for our Pastor and staff. Be with them. Be with those who are suffering, may they feel your hand easing their pain. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Grace Epperson