

Standing Before The Judge



I would like to share a story with you. This story touched me years ago. It tells of a reckless journey and the intervention of police officer just doing his job. My road to redemption started when I was 16 years old. I was in a place where my life was very broken and it all appeared hopeless. I was traveling down I-70 in a very fast car. By nature, I like to follow the rules. I dislike the idea of doing something wrong, knowing that pleading for mercy after the fact, will grant me forgiveness. The story I am going to tell is about a young woman who just bought a fast car. She didn't buy it because she wanted to go fast. She bought it simply because she liked the car. Like myself, she too was more comfortable living within the parameters of the law. She set out on a journey down a less traveled road. The road before her was very smooth and flat. It was a very sunny summer day, and the road didn't offer much scenery as she traveled across the flattened plains. She was enjoying her new car traveling at the posted speed limit of 70 mph. She glanced down at the speedometer noticing that it was maxed out at 160 mph. Looking up at the road and in her rearview mirror, gave her the insight that she was alone. There was no one in sight in any direction. Without hesitation her foot hit the gas. Could the car she was driving really reach the 160 mph? Providing a momentary thrill, the speedometer reached 100 mph. Her ears were filled with a loud sharp noise that sounded like a siren. As she glanced from the dash to the rearview mirror she could see flashing lights. How could this be? It was only a momentary lapse in time. Pulling off the highway, a very young looking officer approached the car. Bursting in tears, she pleaded her case without hesitation. "Officer, you don't understand. I am good and I never break the law! I was just testing the car because the speedometer said it could reach 160 mph." The unsolicited testimony was dismissed, and she was instructed to put her hands behind her head, and do as he said. The officer asked, "do you understand that you are being arrested for endangering public safety?" Being placed in the back of the car, one question came to mind. How bad could the penalty be for unintentionally speeding? The jail was a small one room building with a holding cell and a desk. The young police officer spoke to the man behind the desk. "Father, I mean your Honor, I caught this young woman breaking the law." The Judge was actually the officer's father too. As she sat there she kept pondering the situation. She came to the conclusion that no matter what defense she had, she would still be found guilty.

Standing before the Judge she was told that she was being charged with not following the law, and endangerment. The punishment is life. With tears flowing down her face, she felt hopeless and desperate. The young girl cried out to the father, "save me!" His response was unexpected. He told her there was only one way to be saved. The Judge turned to his son with love in his eyes and said, "will you save this woman by taking her place?" Her heart sank as this man's son took her place and received her punishment. Who would show that kind of love for someone so undeserving?

The story of undeserved forgiveness is the story of salvation. The punishment for breaking God's law is (eternal) death!

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: Romans 5

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." Romans 10