

## Signs Along Life's Highway

We all pass numerous highway signs when traveling. Some might be funny, some alarming, some informative, but they all need to be read. Tragedies can occur when one decides to either not pay attention to a sign or simply do what they want. Those signs are for a purpose, a reason, so as to make travel safe and easy for everyone. Therefore, if God would place some signs before us at various stages as we travel down "life's highway" what would they be? Here are some suggestions.

"Slowdown" would be one good sign. Actually, there is a sign not far from us that says "Slow, children are playing" which is on a busy residential street. As we go from day to day there is a tendency to get in a hurry going to our destination really fast. Young children can't wait to become teenagers, teenagers want to get to college or get out of school. Those in college want to graduate and start another chapter of their lives, get a job, get married, and have children. Young parents might want their children to grow up and become independent. Some look forward to retirement and can't wait to get rid of that job and relax for a while. The fact is, we need to enjoy and appreciate each mile along that highway of life. You will only be a child, a teenager, in college, just married, young parents, and so on, just once and that time is very brief. The Bible describes our life as a vapor that appears for a little while, James 4.14. I remember talking to Regena's dad after we had Eli and looking forward to another stage in life. His words still rings in my ears, "Dennis, you are wishing your life away." He was saying, "slowdown and enjoy what you got."

Another sign would be "Rough Road Ahead". Just as there are potholes, dips, and cracks in the pavement on physical roads; there are also, rough patches in life. Rough Road Ahead may describe the first

year of a lot of marriages. It is a time of newness, new relationships, new experiences, and new trials. While we tend to think of that first year as be the honeymoon stage, and many marriages have growing pains. In fact, a sizeable number of marriages do not make it through those first few years of marriage. Young people, marriage is a give and take relationship. You give a lot of your time, emotions, and energy if you are going to have a happy marriage. Don't be discouraged by those dips and potholes on the way. Other rough miles on that road of life can be dealing with a rebellious child, or health issues, or the death of love ones. Remember to read your Bible and look to it for answers. Any rough road you are on has been traveled before and God knows the right way to travel.

Then another sign would be "Detour Ahead." We have all traveled toward a destination with plenty of time and suddenly that sign appears. We are taken out of our way, extra miles may be traveled, and we might we even be late to where we are going. But the other alternative is either to plow ahead and risk life and limb, or to turn around and go back where we started. So, it is with our lives. Life is not a straight line where we get from point A to point B in the shortest distance. There are often detours to get where we are going. Joseph was sold into slavery, taken to Egypt, served in Potiphar's house, was false accused on trying to rape his master's wife, and sent to prison. He was also there to interpret Pharaoh's dream and deliver his people from a terrible drought. Talk about a life filled with detours! Whatever detours you face will get you somewhere. What you do once you get there is up to you but do not get discouraged. Use whatever circumstances you are in to serve God and become a better Christian. The Bible is filled with great men who had detours on the highway of life, Moses, David, Saul of Tarsus, to name just three such people.

"Prepare for Sudden Stop" is an ominous sign on the highway letting you know something ahead may not just cause you to slowdown but to come to a complete stop. There are various sudden stops on our highway. It may be the sudden illness that takes you by surprise, a heart attack, a stroke, an accident, or even death. None of us know how much time we have in life but it is certain we will all eventually die, Hebrews 9.27. Therefore, we need to be prepared for death. You might be going along at a good clip and suddenly one of those things mentioned above happens to you. It will be too late to prepare to meet your God once that happens. The only way to be ready is to get ready now and stay ready.

Hopefully, we can all travel for a good while down our highway of life and enjoy the time together but that largely depends on whether we read the signs or disregard them. - - Dennis Tucker