

SOMETIMES WE GET AN ANSWER AND OTHER TIMES WE DON'T

A warning light appeared on the dash of our Toyota Prius on Thursday afternoon. Thankfully I was not too far from home when it first appeared. When I got home, I pulled out the vehicle manual from my glove compartment and discovered the warning light was indicating the coolant temperature was too high. I opened the hood, hoping all I needed to do was add some coolant, but peering in I could see fluid resting on top of the radiator. I was able to book an appointment for Friday morning with my garage, hoping it might be repaired that day.

My daughter was also hoping for a quick fix to the car because she wanted to use it Saturday for something special she was planning to do in Ancaster. Around 11:00 a.m. on Friday morning the garage called to say they found two holes in my radiator, and it could not be driven until it was replaced. Unfortunately, the radiator was not in stock and it would not come in until the following Tuesday.

Receiving this news was devastating. I know many of you might be thinking I was devastated to have to open my wallet and pay for a pricey repair. You are not totally wrong as I was hoping for a simple fix. What devastated me more was knowing how disappointed my daughter would be not being able to drive our Toyota Prius on Saturday to Ancaster. Even though we have two vehicles, my daughter has basically driven our Prius up until this point. She has only driven our Nissan Sentra on one previous occasion. Saturday was going to be the first time she would be driving out of town to Ancaster on her own. We knew she would be more confident driving the Prius than the Sentra.

The timing of all of this was not great to say the least. Naturally, being a person of faith, I vented to God and said, "**Why could this not have happened earlier in the week so there was enough time to get a new radiator in? If not earlier in the week God, then why not next week so my daughter could drive her preferred car to Ancaster?**" I had questions as you can see in this vent, and it did not take long for God to provide me with an answer. The answer did not come in the form of audible words, but rather with this message placed on my heart:

I knew about these problems with your Prius. Did you really want me to send her down to Ancaster in this vehicle knowing the problems? Did you want her to have to deal with the engine possibly overheating?

I was thankful for this answer being placed on my heart by God. This answer helped me to switch from focusing on this disappointing news to finding a solution in order to still fulfill my daughter's desire to drive to Ancaster on Saturday. When my daughter got home Friday afternoon and learned the news about the Prius naturally, she was disappointed. I shared with her what God had placed on my heart and how we needed to be thankful He was looking out for her.

We decided she should take our Sentra out for a drive to see if she would have confidence to drive it to Ancaster the next day. I was her co-pilot as she took the Nissan out and it took her only about 15 minutes to turn to me and say, **"I am confident enough to drive this car tomorrow!"** She learned a lot about herself and God by what happened with our Toyota Prius. She was reminded how our all-knowing God was watching over and caring for her by revealing the problem with the car when He did. This incident also helped her to gain more confidence in herself to adapt to changes.

Sometimes we all have issues arise that seem to happen at the worst of times, just like the warning light appearing on our Prius was for me. When these things happen to us, we naturally are filled with questions as to why it had to happen when it did. We may vent in these situations to God just like I did. Often in these moments we want to be provided with an answer as to why it happened. Sometimes God provides us with an answer just as He did with me. In my situation it revealed just how involved and caring God is in our lives. It also revealed how God can use these situations not only to help us get to know Him better, but ourselves, too. When these kinds of situations arise in our lives, I hope we take the opportunity to reflect upon what they teach us about God, and as well as about ourselves.

Sometimes we may not get an answer from God when we vent to Him when these inconvenient circumstances arise in our lives. In the Old Testament Job did not receive an answer from God when he had unfortunate things arise with respect to his health. After waiting for an answer and not receiving one, Job said to God:

"I know that You can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I-and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. (Job 42: 2-3)

Job was repenting here for the previous attitude he had been showing toward God for not answering his questions. Job's words show he was beginning to realize the importance of trusting God even when his questions did not receive an answer. Job learned so much about God's power, majesty, and wonder even though his questions went unanswered. He also learned that it is better for him to trust God in these moments than to doubt.

As we see from my example this week and Job's experience back during Old Testament times, unfortunate circumstances may occur in our lives at less than ideal times. Sometimes we may receive answers to our questions and other times not. Regardless, what remains the same in both circumstances is how much we learn about God's goodness and nature, and what we can learn about ourselves too. Let's keep learning more about God and ourselves even when setbacks and poor timing happen in our lives.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean