

Speeding

When we tell stories to our children about themselves, we give them attributes. The way that children perceive themselves and their "world" gives way to their growth and how they develop. The human's self survival nature helps babies, toddlers and children survive their lives with the help of adults who at times are amateurs in their role and job as parents.

I had 2 parents and I am a middle child. I have been an angry and obese child most of my life but denied the anger and ignored the obesity because of my "intellect" and my selfishness. My mother was -to me- a force to be recon "ed" with as was her mother. My father, on the other hand was Mr. Cleaver although he lived with a different June than Beaver had for a mom. I don't know if that is why I like to move (wiggle - squirm- wander-chew-swallow) any way, I only started thinking about and making sense of my own body for the past 5 years. It has gotten much older in a shorter period of time than I ever anticipated. It still moves okay and it still works everyday but it is becoming more of a minimalist in its thinking.

Sometimes my body seems to do things with out a lot of attending on my part. It still drives a car and it still walks and talks and eats and sleeps okay, but I really should pay more attention to it and what it is doing. And as I am paying attention to it I should get it to do my bidding.

" Sir, I know I was going 10 miles over the speed limit but it was a very short distance and no one else - except the police officer- was on the road - it was only 45 in a 35, not 90 in a 15- I thought I was already in (my home town) where it is 45 when I saw him pass me. L I was not speeding when his light went on behind me." "He could have had mercy - but he did not."

So should I pay the fine - which is terribly outrageous for a small town with only one road to travel- or protest the injustice, plea about the recession, bear the shame of breaking the law- and take the points on my license? I would like to put Officer L (not his real name, lest he say I am badgering him) in a situation where I might show him mercy or I might want to teach the young one about respect for the elderly, mercy, trust and community.

My sweet neighbor says – “So you are so special that you should not have a ticket for speeding?” That’s what they would call on That 70’s Show a ‘burn’. I thought, maybe he just thought I could afford it because my car is only 2 years old and I have lived in this town for such a long time and I have built an agency that gets \$ (from turnips mostly) . . . if I spoke those words out loud she would think I was self centered and paranoid.

And after I spoke with the chief of police and the officer’s sergeant – and got a polite but intimidating “ma’m, we don’t make the speed limit, we don’t get this money – we don’t set the fines - you can talk to the judge”.

I guess my attitude is that the bills are high enough in my neighborhood, why do I have to support yours just because you watch and wait for a reason for us (me and my fellow towns people) to break the law and pay for your needs through very high fines. So I was caught in a speed trap that has been there for 28 years as I have been – but I think I am above the law because I am old?

I think I expected forgiveness and grace. I forgot that I cannot break mans laws with out penalty. The cost of my lawbreaking (fence leaping, territory traveling nature) is treated differently in the world than it is in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Yes he does want us to obey government no matter how little liberty is left to us in this world. But in His eternal story about his children He gives us grace because we are lawbreakers by nature. Why did God allow this unfortunate circumstance to descend upon me? Perhaps to show me my vanity and selfishness. Perhaps to show me my nature and encourage me to be more mindful. (and realize once again that I am angry at not having my own way). Perhaps it was for good.