



she loves

Devotional
February 1, 2010

RACING THE TRAIN

Dear Friends,

Thursday evening I was traveling east bound on Highway 7. Just past Mission I noticed, on the tracks beside the road, a train traveling in the same direction and at approximately the same speed. The thought immediately entered my mind, "I want to beat that train to the next crossing 5 kilometers ahead. But not only do I want to I MUST beat that train to the next crossing."

Let me paint the picture. It's already dark, so dark in fact that I can barely see the train. There were at least 3 vehicles ahead of me already going speed limit (80 km/hr). I wasn't late for anything. No one was expecting me to arrive at a certain time. I was quite content listening to a sermon via my iPod. THERE WAS NO REASON TO BE IN A HURRY!!

Yet all I could think about is beating that train. By now my adrenaline had rushed to my brain and my right foot. I rejoiced when a couple of cars turned off and the truck ahead of me sped up. It looked like he had the same obsession as me. And yes we just crossed the tracks as the red lights started flashing and the arm descended. We made it ... but my heart rate took a good 5 minutes to return to normal. I felt like I had just risked my life...

WHY? Why did it feel so good to be daring, to win; yet after the fact feel so foolish, so arrogant?

BEV: Lord, what lesson do you want me to learn from this? Am I taking unnecessary risks? Am I about to crash if I don't slow down?

ANSWER: You have become quite impatient in a certain area of your life. At great risk you are rushing ahead of me, perhaps even willing to run over others to move faster. You, too easily, elevate the importance of the goal above what you can learn while going for the goal. Both are necessary, one is not complete without the other.

BEV: Lord, as my heart is on its knees, I ask you: Where specifically am I doing this? Going ahead of you means I'm not protected by you. Just as my car and I would have been destroyed by the train if we collided, I am helpless to resist sin when I run ahead of you. I don't want that. Where specifically am I running ahead?

ANSWER: You know which conflict I'm talking about. You know how you have assumed that your way of thinking is the only way to think, that your perspective is the only right perspective! That kind of arrogance will ruin you, will ruin others, and will ruin the opinion others have of me. Don't let it continue.

BEV: Ouch! I now see what you are referring to and I repent. It has felt quite powerful up ahead, as if no one has the right to stop me. But how deceptive to think that I know better than you! How ridiculous! Please give me a broader view of the situation, of the people involved, of what my response needs to be. Which Scripture would apply to this?

ANSWER: **Psalm 32** Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt. When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. Finally I confessed all my sin to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me. All my guilt is gone! Therefore let all the godly pray to you while there is still time that they may not drawn in the floodwaters of judgment. For you are my hiding place. You protect me in trouble. You surround me with songs of victory. **The Lord says, "I will guide you on the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.** Don't be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit or bridle to keep it under control. Many sorrows will come to the wicked, but unfailing love will surround those who trust the Lord. So, rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy all you whose hearts are pure. (I wrote that by memory😊).

Friends, Life is hard enough without running unprotected ahead of God's plans. Remember the train race next time you are tempted and ask God for help in slowing down.

Blessings from Bev

PS - Sinful attitudes form handles on the soul for Satan to grasp (John Flavel 1628-1692).



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