



Kent Nazarene

Adult Sunday School

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My Mother the Car

By Sherrie Pantle

Several years ago there was a television sitcom by this title that revolved around a man's deceased mother being reincarnated as a car. Needless to say, it did not become a TV classic in any sense, having traversed the space between ridiculous and idiotic in one short trip.

The analogy does not escape me, however, as I see a number of similarities between people and cars. We all start out brand new, coming in all shapes, sizes, and colors. There is nothing like that "new car smell" or the (mostly) sweet smell of a baby. Everyone admires a new car and a new baby.

Our younger years can be compared to that first week with a new car; discovering all the features/extras/components and how they work. But the real test comes in the teen years when we get our driver's license and begin to get out on the open road to somewhere, throwing both our regard for the speed limit and caution to the wind.

Our later years are accompanied by a series of necessary repairs and not a few rust spots. Body work seems to be a popular, though not always a necessary favorite. Ultimately, it can be said of both car and person that "she doesn't run as well as she once did," as most of us North of 50 can attest.

The comparisons are endless: you can ruin a car by putting the wrong fluid into a gas tank. A car will not run if the battery is dead or the transmission is shot. It will not go far without gas or four inflated tires. Cars race with each other, try to outdo each other, cut each other off, crash into stationary objects or each other and eventually end up in the "grave yard" of the local junk dealer. Most people pretty much do the same, racing down life's freeway with no thought in mind as to direction or purpose, trying to log as many miles as possible before they quit altogether, hardly even noticing

when they go the wrong way. I've heard it said that the road to hell is a paved, six-lane freeway with all the lights set to green. Conversely, the narrow way is smack dab in the middle, going uphill in the opposite direction over ruts and chuckholes the size of an old VW bus. And yes, if we are not careful, we can have a whopping head-on collision with the world.

There is, however, one outstanding difference between cars and people. Cars can, of course, be recycled. That old VW bus can come back as a Ferrari. Unfortunately, people are one-of-a-kind, one-time productions; and classic. Once we hit the predetermined number on the old odometer, it's all over. The direction we determine to go has everlasting consequences. There should be signs put up for everyone to read along life's journey:

U Turn now to avoid demolition.

Current Class Offerings

DISCOVERY, led by Vern Morgan, has begun a new study entitled "Be Joyful" by Warren W. Wiersbe. This book is centered in the New Testament book of Philippians and examines Paul's admonition that we can remain joyful even in difficult circumstances.

PARABLES, led by Rick Rosenkranz, is nearing the end of its study in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, concentrating on Jesus' final days. Our Lord eats with His disciples for the final time and prepares Himself for crucifixion. Class format is discussion and conversational. All are welcome to attend. **Rick is featured in this issue's Teacher Feature.**

BODY BUILDERS, facilitated by Ken Eckert, is continuing its study in the book of Hebrews. This class is open to adults of all ages and enjoys a conversational style of learning.

VOYAGER, led by Sherrie Pantle, has just advanced their biblical study to 2 Kings. An in-depth look at the kings of Israel and Judah and the unfolding prophecies of God. The class is open to adults of all ages interested in in-depth biblical study and history.

SENIOR ADULTS, facilitated by Rich Linton, is in Unit 2 of the Nazarene Publishing Adult Quarterly, entitled **Look to the Lord! A study in Psalms**. The class is open to all adults, but offers special ministry to senior adults.

BRIDGE, led by Glenn Harmaning, is in the midst of a study on the subject of the doctrine of adoption based on J. I. Packer's book, "Knowing God." Everything in the gospel hinges on this concept. Class is open to young adults.

SEEKERS, a Sunday school class designed to meet the needs of young marrieds is in the process of looking for new leadership. Interim leaders will facilitate the class until a permanent facilitator can be found. If anyone is interested in leading this class, please let Sherrie Pantle or Pastor John know.



Call to Prayer

Pray for the needs of our church; financial, facility, new pastoral leadership, new church board, District Assembly, those in need of assistance and physical healing. Pray for our food bank and clothing exchange ministry. Pray for our pastoral staff, both existing and yet to be called to our church. Pray for outreach to our community, families in our immediate area, the City of Kent, our state, and our nation. Most of all, pray for God's continued presence in our lives and in our church body. Be joyful, thankful, faithful, and of course prayerful.

An Encouraging Word

To our **Sunday school teachers**: You have been called by God, equipped by His Holy Spirit, instructed by our Lord Himself, and placed in this church body for this time. Your classes respect you, look to you, and learn from and with you. You love those in your charge, pray for them and their families, enjoy deep friendships and fellowship. You are appreciated by so many for all that you do. Thank you.

Sunday school class participants: Tell your teacher how much he or she means to you today.

Quotable Saints

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.
Saint Augustine



Teacher Feature

This issue of the Newsletter features Rick Rosenkranz, facilitator of the Parables Class. Rick has been leading the class since 2005, having felt the Lord's leading when Rob Robinson relinquished his duties as teacher. Rick says he enjoys most the teaching he receives from the Lord as he prepares each lesson. Rick states, "I love the forcing function that leading a class brings, the requirement placed upon me to read the Bible in order to prepare lessons. I can only hope and pray that I'm able to convey some of what I learn about God and Jesus through the lessons that I bring."

The Parables class enjoys the conversational format of the class and the family atmosphere. "We pray for each other a lot, and share what's going on in our lives, too," Rick says. He also extends a challenge to all other Sunday school classes: "Treat your teachers well! Like, give them Starbucks gift cards every now and then. ;)"

Thank you, Rick, for being the committed, anchored Christian that you are, and continued success with the Parables Class.

