



Thursday Thought

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“Flailing Arms”

Thursday December 21, 2017

Verse for the week: Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) “Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

Have you noticed how busy the traffic is, especially during the Christmas season? And on top of it all, it gets dark at 5:30 PM. I hate the time change, but that's another thought for another day. Anyway, recently I was on my way to church after picking up an individual. I was getting onto the highway and turned my turn signal on to merge into traffic like a responsible driver. Usually when you merge into traffic, the cars in that lane either get over, speed up so you can get behind them or slow down so you can go in front of them. On this particular day, there was an individual who refused to move. I closely watched in my mirrors and decided it would be best for me to speed up and get in front. It was clearly AFTER I began to speed up and get over that they decided to speed up. The faster I went the faster they went. It was clear they did NOT want me getting in front of them. We almost collided as I began honking my horn (my wife would have been happy with me) and flailing my arms. I began to yell “What is your problem...” No I didn't cuss or flip the individual off but I definitely did not keep control of my emotions. This coming from the person who is a pastor, on his way to church, and who frequently says “Your attitude is your choice!” I realized how foolish I was being and what kind of an example I was providing for those around me. My passenger began to laugh at me and said “Pastor Myron!” They didn't have to say anything else, I realized that I had reacted foolishly and apologized. The Bible says in **Ecclesiastes 7:9 (NLT), “Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool.”** Sometimes the truth hurts.

So what about you? How do you react in the unexpected situations that happen around you daily? Paul gave instructions to Timothy that are applicable to everyone. He says, **“Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”** I Timothy 4:12b (NLT)

A wise person once told me to “learn from the mistakes of others because you will never live long enough to make them all yourself.” This is true, so learn from my mistake and begin now realizing that people are watching you. Choose to have a good attitude this day and choose to only allow words to come out of your mouth that will encourage others.

Question to ponder: What area or areas in your life do you need to take more control of and choose to have a good attitude in the midst of it?