



Thursday Thought

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Stampede

Thursday 9/26/2019

Verse for the week: Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT) “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Have you ever driven on a major highway in a big city? It can be very frustrating. You are moving along and see from a sign that the exit you want is 5 miles ahead. You consider getting over right then, but the traffic is so heavy you decide not to worry because you have plenty of time. The exit gets closer and you turn your signal on to get over, but the traffic continues booking by. You begin to nudge over, but people won’t let you in because they can’t get over. Everyone is focused on one thing—getting to where they are going—NOW. It reminds me of the old westerns when the cattle would get caught up in a stampede.

According to Wikipedia: “A stampede is uncontrolled concerted running as an act of mass impulse among herd animals or a crowd of people in which the group collectively begins running.... A large stampede typically eliminates everything in its path. With livestock, cowboys attempt to turn the moving herd into itself, so that it runs in circles rather than running off a cliff or into a river hurting themselves, or damaging human life or property.” The problem is that in the midst of the rat race going on, it’s easy to get caught up going in a direction that you never intended to go and arriving at an unknown destination.

Here are a few steps you can take to avoid the stampede:

1. **Choose your friends wisely!** My mother would often ask, “If everyone else is doing it, are you going to also?” She evidently had been reading **Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)** which says, “**The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.**” In other words, if you are going to follow the crowd, make sure it’s a wise crowd.
2. **Keep your focus!** It’s so easy to get side tracked, especially when we are in a crowd. It’s imperative that we stay focused on our goal. 1 Corinthians 2:2, Hebrews 12:1-2
3. **Make course corrections when needed!** If you have gotten caught up and are going the wrong direction, make a U-turn before it’s too late. Revelation 2:5

Challenge Question: Are you caught up in a stampede? If so, will you begin taking the steps above to correct the direction of your life before it’s too late?