

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Stop, Look, and Listen

“The squeaky wheel gets the grease,” I’m told.

Yesterday, when my spouse asked me, “How was your day?” I answered in somewhat disgruntled tones, “There’s a tire out of alignment on the car, again...”

Understandable response, I suppose, considering that “squeaky wheels” are demanding things and eventually get on your nerves.

But, a more interesting response, (if done un-hypocritically), and one demanding much more “vision” might have been, “Honey, the most wonderful thing happened today!!!...Three wheels worked right!”

Silly? Perhaps.

But consider what a squeaky wheel really is.

First of all, it’s something that doesn’t work right. It’s a noisy invasion of peace and something that could have been prevented beforehand with a little grease. But, more importantly, it is something that if left unchecked could eventually cause sparks...and maybe even a fire.

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And by immediately finding fault with the day's happening, I became what I was complaining about...a squeaky wheel...invading my spouse's peace, something that could have been avoided beforehand, with a little "grease"; but more importantly, if left unchecked could eventually cause "sparks" and maybe even a fire. For,

"...the tongue is as fire. The tongue is an unrighteous world among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the cycle of nature (the wheel of birth) and set on fire by hell." [James 3:6]

So, maybe it's time we noticed those other wheels, the wheels of birth...the wheels that roll along unpretentiously, day after day, just getting the job done...and seeing all those things in our lives that went right, today, not wrong. They're the ones so easily missed.

For God is not a squeaky wheel, and His works are all around us; but they might go unnoticed, too, unless we learn to stop...and look...and listen.

(September 25, 1979)