

Third Friday of Lent ~ 3/16

"Let him who is wise understand these things; let him who is prudent know them. Straight are the paths of the Lord, in them the just walk, but sinners stumble in them." (Hosea 14:10)

If you were walking on a straight path why might you fall? There may seem to be many different reasons, but the basic scenario would probably have something to do with not watching where you are going. Maybe something distracted you, maybe you looked behind you or up into the air and so maybe there was something in your path that you didn't see that caused you to trip. Being aware of where you are, where you want to go and what it will take to get there safely are all really about conscious living.

Conscious living means living in awareness or living in the present moment. It means that I know what I am doing and that I understand the consequences of what I am doing as well. Most often when we fall it isn't that the information isn't available to us; it's just that we don't use it. Everyone knows that drinking and driving can be deadly, but we choose to do so anyway because we decide to ignore the consequences. Not only can a drunk driver not walk a straight line but he or she will not be able to drive one either, and too often an innocent person pays the price.

Straight-path living is not about being straight-laced. Straight-laced folks don't necessarily do the best job of walking in God's path either. In their effort to move straight-ahead they become rigid. When the path gently curves one way or another they are not prepared to compensate. Consequently when new information comes to them about something that they have always known, was one way they are unable to broaden their horizons.

Conscious living means being prepared for cross traffic, for oncoming traffic, and for merging traffic as well. Present moment living means that I am secure enough to be able to move over so that someone else can get on the path with me and I am happy for the companionship.

On the conscious path of God there is no reason for road rage or tailgating because all will get where they are going when they need to get there. Unlike those who do not live with their eyes facing the Lord, those on the straight path are aware of their need for God and so don't find themselves in major traffic tie-ups or big traffic accidents. A minor fender-bender of faith may occur, but we don't become overly burdened by it because we have placed our lives in the good hands of God.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. When I trip up in life do I know why I have done so?*
- 2. If I were to use the analogy of driving in traffic to express my faith life what would be the most descriptive characteristic?*