

Scott's Thoughts

January 5, 2025



“He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.”” (Jonah 1:12, ESV)

Winter is my least favorite time of year. I do not like cold weather or the snow and ice, especially when driving. While any road trip can end in disaster no matter what the season, a lot of it depends on the driver and how they drive. I can remember the stress of driving from the St. Louis area right after Christmas one year. I was with a friend from the ship who lived in the same area and we were returning from leave, heading to New York City. It snowed the whole way. Sometimes the roads were packed with snow and at other times it was just a mix of ice and snow that was very slick. We saw many drivers who had run off the road and were waiting for help. We made it safely, but the storm added about four hours to our normal sixteen-hour trip.

I remember vividly when the national speed limit was 55 mph. I did a lot of long-distance driving during that time. Many of those trips were to and from St. Louis on interstates I-55 and I-10. It is a good road that passes through many sections of unpopulated areas. I found that many of the travelers who passed me did so repeatedly. They would pass me then an hour or so later they would pass me again. I wondered if the added stress of knowing that they might get caught speeding and get a ticket added to the stress of driving. (I lived on a very tight budget, so I observed the speed limit

with great care.) Over the hundreds of miles on those trips, I often arrived at some place at the same or close to the same time the speeders did. I was tired but my stress level was much less than those who pushed the limit even if they did not get caught. Because of their frequent breaks, they saved almost no total time on the trip. Today we have much higher speed limits on our highways, some places as high as 85 mph. Even with the limit set that high some will exceed the limit. How fast is too fast?

All of life is the same. There are people who never learn and continue to press the speed-limit of life. God has set limits and mankind has ignored those limits and thinks that just because God has not pulled us over time and again that we have gotten away with cheating the system. Nothing could be further from the truth, we will all have to answer at some point. The good news is God is willing to forgive if we are willing to become obedient according to his plan.

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.” (Acts 3:19 ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott