

The Hearse

Sometime during the mid 1980's I took a ride in my 1976 Jeep, traveling up 82nd Avenue going past the "stick it to 'ya" car lots. I then happened to see the quintessential custom car visionary's dream....A 1959 Cadillac hearse. It was fully equipped with all the "cool hearse stuff" like the landau irons on the side, partitions between the driver and the casket chamber, curtains, side doors and a huge cavernous back door to allow the insertion of the casket....And it was in my favorite colorBlack. The asking price was only \$1500....I knew I could talk him down if I paid cash.

So, with my sales pitch in mind, I went to explain my plan to my wife of less than ten years, and my impression conscious early elementary school age daughter. One unfortunate glitch in my plan was the fact that because of the size of the vehicle it needed to be parked either in front of the house along the street, or in the driveway.

Have you ever burned brush using diesel fuel or gasoline? Putting it mildly, my wife did not think we needed another "clunker" dripping oil on our driveway, and further alienating our neighbors. She did not even want to hear "my vision", and was singularly unimpressed when I told her that "A thing of beauty is a joy forever"....She said she was afraid of that, and glared at the Jeep. My daughter did not take my plan as well as my wife....She was then, and is still "not a fan" of the Jeep, but an old Hearse at her house would doom her socially. In my head is still "the vision", no matter how crazy it may be.

Such is life, as they say. However, all of mankind has visions of how he'd like things to be, and what must be done to engage the wheels of progress to facilitate this dream. David wanted to build a Temple for the Lord and made fantastic preparations so as to bring this about, but was told by God that because he had been a warrior and had shed much blood that he, himself would not build the Temple, but his son, Solomon, a man of peace, would do that[1].

Part of the secret to contentment in the Lord is to learn the peace which comes from waiting for His guidance in all things. Too often we, like David, try to hurry God along, just in case He has become forgetful in his old age. I, personally try to offer my "advice and counsel" just because, in my opinion He has not looked at all the angles and has missed something. What I am really saying here is that I want it done my way, and I want it done now. That is sin. That is putting my will ahead of God's will. Isaiah says hoping in the Lord will renew our strength and we will soar like on wings like eagles. We will run and not grow weary; we will walk and not grow faint[2]. This tells me that if I wait upon God's timing, He will make everything beautiful in it's time[3]. Not to wait upon Him is tantamount to "having another clunker" dripping oil on our driveway" as we travel through life.

[1] 1 Kings 5: 3-18; 1 Chronicles 22: 2-19; 1 Chronicles 28: 1-21

[2] Isaiah 40: 31

[3] Ecclesiastes 3: 11