



12 January 2024

## *Don't Get Stuck!*

We've had another dump of snow here in the Okanagan this week. One of the dangers is getting stuck, being unable to drive ahead or back.

When I was a boy our family drove to my grandparents' farm one Christmas season. It was snowing heavily. My Dad figured a back door route to the farm was the best bet to make it through the snow on that dark, cold, stormy evening.



We got stuck.

My Dad flashed the headlights on and off. Fortunately my uncle saw that, got in a tractor and towed us up to the house.

As a kid I thought it was a great adventure. Of course, if we had been stuck where no one was expecting us, watching for us, the great adventure could have been a great tragedy.

We can get stuck in many ways—from disappointment, failure, betrayal, losses, even in the normal routines of life.

The godly prophet and judge Samuel got stuck. When the people demanded to have a king, God told him to allow it even though the people were rejecting Him and His rule. God directed Samuel to anoint Saul as king. While Saul started well, in time he turned away from following God. When Saul died, Samuel mourned him.

Samuel's mourning went on. A day came when God asked him,

“How long are you going to mourn Saul, since I rejected him from being king over Israel?” (1 Samuel 16:1)

Mourning Saul's death was appropriate. But Samuel got stuck in his disappointment and grief, in his mourning.

God then pointed Samuel to the present and future, to move ahead because He had chosen a new king whom Samuel was to anoint.

When we experience disappointment, failures, betrayals and losses we mourn. That is as it should be. It is part of God's design for us to interpret what happens and to adjust. We are not to rush through mourning, but neither are we to get stuck there.

So, how do we prevent getting stuck? How do we move forward?

First, recognize that God is with you, will always be with you. He has purposes and plans for you today and in the future, even after the greatest failures and losses. Thank Him for His grace to you in the past, and His hope for the future. God does not change.

Then, embrace and follow God's instructions through the writer of Hebrews,

“We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

As well, confess and turn from any sin that you have not dealt with to this point.

Also, while remembering the past, focus on today and the future. The apostle Paul tells us,

“Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14).

*Don't get stuck! Keep moving forward with God.*

Pastor Lyle