

I learned a spiritual lesson from my snow blower the other day.

We had received our first real snow and I was out blowing the white stuff out of the driveway. I am blessed with a 5-speed, 8hp Yard Machine to move snow with decisive oomph. It was a gift given back in 2007 and, with some tune-ups, has performed wonderfully over the years. Well, as I was making good headway through the 6-7" of the snowfall, a little voice inside my head asked, "WHY ARE YOU PUSHING THE SNOWBLOWER?" I stopped. I reflected, "Yes, indeed, why...?". I was actually *pushing* this wonderfully powerful tool. It's not going to go any faster. There's plenty of power to get me through this snow. So what's the hurry? And with that, I let the machine do the work it was intended to do (mostly).



Later, I thought about this. Two thoughts came up:

- **Sometimes I'm not so good at receiving a gift for what it is.** I'll feel it necessary to modify, supercharge, and manipulate it to be something "more" than what it needs to be. It's an ego thing, a control issue, I suppose. (Jesus and I both know it's a work-in-progress)
- **Patience isn't always my strong suit.** (Another work-in-progress)

I thanked Jesus and His Whisper of Wisdom for this insight and tucked it in my heart, looking forward to future opportunities to be more accepting and more patient. Well, maybe not exactly *looking forward*...

Then the Little Voice suggested that I be vulnerable and share my funny little ego-moment on the snow blower with the Digest audience, with an invitation to you for the New Year. I invite you to join me in **learning to receive life as a gift** (with a minimum of manipulation) and to **exercise more patience** (in all its forms) when we feel challenged. These two learning adventures can open our hearts to an ever-expanding love that possibly could be a tipping point for our collective future.

As the disruptive, divisive, and chaotic year of 2020 fades away, we have the chance to learn from the pain to emerge as better, changed individuals. I really believe that. We can take the time and energy to stop and question behavior (and attitudes) that have not been healthy for us or others. We can muster up the courage to seek new ways of living, making small corrections here and there, small changes that amount to radically large course changes for our planetary future... if we can pull this off in large enough numbers. But it all begins with my decision to take "the road less traveled".

We are still on that rugged, uphill climb in this pandemic. It is just plain hard, sometimes overwhelming. But if we can just stay focused on our participation in God's healing work on Earth, on the positive instances of love and generosity, on the many creative ways we can connect with one another, we will not just *survive* this stretching period, but *thrive* in a new way. That's my hope and my prayer.

Happy New Year!

*Scott*

P.S. Catch us on Facebook, livestreaming every Sunday morning @ 10:30!