



DAY 28

TURNPIKE TOLL

Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "the one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "go and do likewise." - Luke 10: 36 & 37

A few years ago, we got stuck behind another motorist at the Rte. 44 Turnpike exit toll booth. From what we could tell, this young guy was scrambling to pay the toll – we could see him talking and gesturing with the booth attendant and frantically looking around for his wallet or some spare change.

I began to mutter and calculate how long before I laid on the horn in anger at being delayed for a few more seconds.

Then I noticed that Sue was opening her wallet so she could jump out of the car and pay this guy's toll. I remember very clearly what she said - "I guess we should help him out."

My first response was to be annoyed – Sue's first response was to help.

His need was not great, and didn't require any big sacrifice on our part. It was a simple and small act of kindness in a moment of frustrating inconvenience – and Sue did not hesitate to help.

I wonder if the young man that Sue helped that day would remember that small act and pass it along to other strangers in need. Was his life graced by the compassion shown to him by the nameless woman in the Honda minivan?

Gracious and loving God – if we keep you in our hearts, we find your presence in all that we do, everywhere we look, and in all people – even at turnpike toll booths. Help us find the generosity in our hearts that we readily share with all your children, whatever their needs. Amen

– Steve Hurd