

7th April 2021

Adjustments

“We have the time to adjust and prepare.”

Charles Lindbergh, Journal entry, 11 December 1941

My father taught me to drive when I was seventeen. He had been a coach driver all his life, so I never needed the services of an official Driving Instructor. He was a patient too – and he had to be, teaching me! He only once raised his voice, and that was when I “cut-up” a service bus in Fort William High Street. “That driver had forty people in his care on that bus,” he ranted, “and you’ve just scared him witless by putting him and his passengers in danger.” I never cut up a bus again ...

But, best of all, were the tips he passed on – especially in preparation for my driving test. “When the Tester gets in the car,” he said, “always make sure that the rear-view mirror is slightly out of alignment. Then, before you start, reach up and make a big thing of adjusting the mirror. That way the Tester will know right away that you’re on top of your game.” Sound advice, as it turned out, and I passed my driving test first time. Thanks dad!

“Make a big thing of adjusting ...” “On top of your game ...” Sadly, I haven’t heeded my dad’s advice as often as I should have done in other parts of my life. Like many of you, I’m sure, I know that adjustments need to be made – to work patterns, prayer life, behaviours, relationships, life-style – but I’ve become so set in these aspects of my life that adjustments are either never made, or only tried a little before they’re abandoned. On top of my game? Not really, especially when I know the things I need to change but fail to make the necessary adjustments.

As I’ve said many times, I’ve been doing a lot of reflecting recently and, as a result, identifying some out-of-alignment issues – like a squint rear-view mirror. So before I start motoring off into the future, I should make the appropriate adjustments. Some will be small, while others may mean some big changes. But they’ll all be necessary.

If Charles Lindbergh is right and “we have the time to adjust and prepare”, why wouldn’t we use it well so that the next stage of our journey is one we begin by being right on top of our game?

A prayer for today

Lord, help me to adjust, so I’m pointing in the right direction for you. Amen

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