

From the Pastor's Desk.....

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,"
says the Lord.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways,
and My thoughts than your thoughts." [Isaiah 55:8,9](#) NKJV

Hello family,

Recently I learned a ginormous lesson from a walk behind weed trimmer that was loaned to me. You know, one of those wheeled weed eater things.

The mission objective was to cut down the giant vegetation growing on the vacant lot next to Robyn's and my home which is the church parsonage.

The mission seemed relatively simple that would involve direct action against these menacing weeds with the main weapon being the previously mentioned weed cutting machine thingy.

As I gassed up the machine I was visualizing mission success in my mind.

Images of these more than waist high, finger thick weeds flying into the air all around me as I charged into the field with the courage, energy and tenacity of a Samurai warrior.

I pictured reaching the objective within a couple of hours and then walking off that formerly weeded battlefield feeling good about my victory and moving on to other things throughout that day.

With the machine now gassed up and myself being mentally and physically prepared for the battle at hand, I fired up the machine/weapon and charged into the weeds.

Less than a minute into the battlefield I realized that none of the things that I had planned and pictured in my mind were happening with the exception of me running headlong into the enemy weeds.

In less than a minute I had managed to wrap somewhere around 25 linear feet of weeds around the machine's shaft that no longer was spinning and the motor had stalled.

I looked behind me and realized I had only actually cut down about 8-10 feet of weeds. What could have gone wrong? Everything was so carefully planned and executed. Right.

Using about the same genius as Wile Coyote, I cleared the shaft with a knife and continued the same course of action over and over again each time cutting 8-10 foot sections. I even went and bought thicker string but continued to charge into the weeds the same way.

I finally came to the conclusion that I must be doing something wrong and that it probably had something to do with the way I was using the machine.

I knew all along that the weed eater was not designed to just go at the weeds directly.

Especially weeds as tall and thick as these were. But I decided to do things the way I wanted to, the way I thought was best instead of the right way and it simply had not worked.

So after all the energy and effort spent I decided to do things the right way, using the machine the way it was designed to be used by just letting the one side cut into the weeds. And you know what, everything went much better.

The objective was reached, there was way less frustration, and it went a lot faster.

You might be saying "What in the world does that have to do with anything?"

Well it occurred to me that those weeds were like the problems in the world.

My personal, selfish approach to those problems demonstrated how bad things go for us when we use our own understand of things, our own desire to accomplish something, or control something. Things don't just go very badly but in addition we also become completely fruitless. When we do things the right way, God's way, according to His word, things go so much better.

Now I know that I could of just said that to begin with but that wouldn't have been nearly as fun as the story. Just sayin'.

In Christ's love, Pastor Dave Wolff