

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

My son, Elijah, has become a skilled driver of his tricycle. I have tried to teach him to stay along the curb or side of the road. He can maneuver around vehicles and around corners quite well, keeping his back tires right up against the curb. My daughter, Abigail, enjoys these excursions just as much as her brother. For part of the time she likes being pushed in her pink umbrella stroller (the faster the better). For the other part she prefers to strike out on her own, checking out the various rocks and flowers like a true tourist.

Each child has their own unique way of enjoying our walks. Elijah, for the most part, likes to stay on the move. There are certain destinations that he looks for along the way which keep him moving. Abigail, on the other hand, enjoys stopping for extended periods of time in order to “stop and smell the roses”. She is less interested in a destination than she is in what there is to experience along the way.

Elijah’s and Abigail’s different styles of traveling often make it difficult for me accommodate both of them. Elijah will usually stop and wait when I tell him to, but he can only wait for so long. And, if I were honest with myself, I would have to say that my style of traveling is more like Elijah’s. So, it takes a concentrated effort from us guys to accommodate Abigail’s style.

There is one tactic that Elijah and Abigail have in common, though. They are both rarely in a hurry. I can’t say this is always my style. But when I observe it in my children, it reminds me of the way Jesus lived. In John 5:19 He says, “the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does the Son also does in like manner.” Jesus let God be in charge of His day. When God moved ahead, Jesus moved ahead. When God lingered, Jesus lingered. As a result, Jesus was always on time and never late (according to God’s timing not man’s). I don’t want to run ahead of God. Neither do I want to sit around when God is on the move. It is my prayer that my steps will always be ordered by the Lord (Psalm 37:23).