

The Used Car

The story is told of the farmer drove 10 miles into the nearby town and picked out the new car he wanted to purchase. The salesman noticed the man had driven into the dealership with an old rusty clunker and asked if they wanted to dispose of it for him. "No", he answered, "I will just take it back home to keep as a spare in case my new car ever breaks down." The salesman handed him the new car's keys and he drove off. A few minutes later the salesman saw the man return and pick up the old car.

Later that afternoon, one of the dealership's tow truck drivers came in and described a strange sight he had seen just outside of town, "I saw a man with two cars. He would drive one a few hundred yards down the road and then walk back to the second car and drive it several hundred yards past the first. I watched him for a while and, sure enough, he repeated the process several times." After comparing notes the salesman and tow truck driver realized this was the old farmer taking his two cars back home. After a little math they figured out that the man would drive both cars 10 miles and he himself would walk 10 miles to get home that day.

This is often a picture of our Christian lives. We eagerly put on the new life Christ offers but we want to keep our old one as a backup. In order to do that we end up spending a lot of time and effort to take our old man along so we have it just in case the new man breaks down or does not work out as we had thought. Soon we are exhausted from trying to live two lives. I know that each time I try to live two lives, with one foot in the life of faith and one in the world, I end up tired and frustrated. It is only when I gave up on that old life that true joy and rest can come in.

¹Kings18:21 (NIV) Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

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