



It Only Takes a Spark

We were off to breakfast Saturday morning, April 27, 2024, anticipating the pleasure of swallowing a pair of pancakes, smothered in syrup. Rounding the corner, near our local country club, *'What to our wondering eyes should appear, but bright orange flaming smoke from vehicle so dear.'*

Grabbing my phone, I snapped a distance shot of the fire, while noticing that on the hillside, a lonely man was standing, phone to his ear. Unable to really turn around, we moved forward, until our car was directly beside the burning vehicle.

Of course this lady had to grab her phone again and try to do the impossible — get a shot without catching on fire. As I frantically attempted to lower the window and aim the phone toward the truck, dark smoke floated away and orange flames poured out the cab windows. Moving forward, a shining red truck flashed by, sirens blaring forth their little tune of warning. Help was on the way. Certainly the Lord also hears our calls for help and reaches out His helping hand.

Sunday morning arrived and I shared the 'blazing image' on my power point with the weekly Bible class I teach. I challenged each to think of an appropriate Biblical application for the scene. As a bonus, I promised a copy of my recent book, *More Ransom Notes: Walk With Joy*, to anyone who provided me with a usable idea. Before class was over, five suggestions appeared on paper. After careful review, this author decided to combine their ideas and see what would result.

Below we see the picture, not of a 'burning bush' such as the one Moses observed, but a flaming truck. Moses' bush was not consumed. The little Ford was destroyed, shortly to be loaded onto a flat bed truck headed for the land of unsalable vehicles. Aren't we glad that when we disappoint the Lord with our thoughts or behavior, we are not immediately headed for life's dump yard. Remembering God's grace, we acknowledge our error, ask for forgiveness, and move forward. (Exodus 2:11-4:17)

Refreshing my memory of the incident that day, my thoughts went to the man on the hillside. What could have forced him to leap from the cab to escape disaster? Was it possible the engine of the old truck back fired at the stop sign, thus igniting a spark of disaster? After all, it only takes a spark to get a blazing fire going.

I can just hear the guy mumbling on the phone to a friend. "I used to ride around in this old junky truck. It generally got me where I wanted to be, but I fretted continually because there was always something wrong. I guess the dreadful day has come and 'old blue' is going up in flames. But, I can still 'walk with joy,' as I exited in the nick of time.

Certainly many of us have experienced a moment in our lives when an event has produced sadness or disaster. Perhaps in frustration, for example, we shared a thought or word that was unkind, resulting in a spark of misunderstanding. A simple kiss by Judas, one of the twelve, initiated a plan of destruction, causing the Lord's betrayal. Although Judas' action was part of God's plan, the 'humanness' of Christ certainly cried inwardly, as the end of His life approached. Jesus did NOT step out of the figurative 'flaming plan of destruction'. Instead, He faced death on the behalf of each of us. Praise the Lord. (Matthew 26:47-75)

A pastor once encouraged his audience to 'become on fire' for God. Perhaps this fellow heard the message, took it literally, but got a bit carried away. I didn't see any sticker on his truck, though, proclaiming, "Fired up for God."

An old camp song comes to mind. *"It only takes a spark to get a fire going and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love. Once you've experienced it, you spread His love to everyone. You want to pass it on."*

Let's Ignite a Fire. Then Join Me in Passing God's Love on to Others.

Remember, 'It Only Takes a Spark to Get A Fire Going'

