

Not the Waze to Go

Traveling the backroads of Vermont on a recent trip we relied on a Waze app for navigation. Waze is an app that gives real-time driving direction and alerts drivers about hazards on the path ahead. Its directions are based on the fastest and most direct route to your destination. Sometimes the route it suggests is a shortcut down a winding, country road instead of staying on the main road – all in the interest of saving time.

What Waze doesn't consider, however, is the actual vehicle you are driving. This was particularly evident as we neared the town of Weybridge, driving on a Vermont state road. To get to the town of Weybridge, Waze directed us to cross the Pulp Mill Bridge, an historic 1853 covered bridge. It is one of only seven "double-barreled" covered bridges in the country. My first instinct was to follow the directions I was given. As I carefully lined up my vehicle with the opening I began to have second thoughts. Was this the right thing to do? Just because I was told it was OK does that make it right?



As you might guess, there is more to the story.

My vehicle was a fairly small RV, complete with an air conditioning unit on top. I rationalized that with careful driving, the width of my RV would make it through the covered bridge. I was tempted to try it. Wouldn't it be neat to cross that historic bridge? I was preoccupied with sizing up the width of my vehicle until I realized the bigger problem was the height of the RV. The RV stands taller than the passenger cars that were already crossing the covered bridge. Everyone else is going over the bridge -- what about me? I was inches away from realizing that my vehicle was too tall when a man working in his garden next to the bridge, warned me not to proceed. He was my guardian angel that day. Thank God for guardian angels placed right when you need them the most.

Later that night I studied the manual for my RV. Attempting to drive through the covered bridge would have been a disaster. If I had reviewed the manual before the trip there would have been no question that the RV was too tall for the covered bridge. We have a manual for life, too. It is important to study the Bible to avoid disasters in life. The Bible encourages me toward behaviors I should do and warns me about sinful behaviors I should avoid. No amount of rationalizing or egging on from others makes forbidden behavior right. Just because others are doing something doesn't make it right. Even though the Waze app on my cell phone told me to go across the bridge it was not the right thing to do. If the voice you are hearing is not God's, seek His direction before proceeding. Reading and following His Word will keep you on the right course. Don't let anyone tell you something is OK to do when it is in opposition to God's Word in the Bible. And, don't give in to temptation just because others are doing it. The Pulp Mill Covered Bridge was tempting and my trusted GPS app said it was OK to try. But, it was not the Waze to go.

Question: What can you do to understand God's Word and avoid harmful behavior, even when others are encouraging you to stray?

The Bible Says: *It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him (Deuteronomy 13:4).*

Prayer: Heavenly Father. It is easy to follow the crowd, including when they are attempting to lead you on their sinful path. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to stay on the course You have laid out for us. Amen.