



Message

from Matthew

I'm Not Proud of It

It's hard to be Christian. It's easy to say, "I'm a Christian." But to really live it is difficult, and I often think the first mistake we make is not acknowledging that. You see, when you don't acknowledge that something is difficult, you have lost in many ways from the beginning, because difficult things need to be approached with much more focus and intentionality than easy things.

Yesterday I was walking down the street in a city I will not name, and as I walked along the foot path, a driver almost ran me over going into his driveway. He saw me, but he didn't care. He was in a hurry or just too impatient to wait. He parked, jumped out of his car, and started screaming obscenities at me as if I had done something wrong.

I wanted to do something. If I were a violent person, I am certain that I would have wanted to hit him or kick his car. I took note of his car and his house... and for a moment my mind started to think about

how I could have revenge. I'm not proud of it, but my mind went places that were anything but Christian.

It was small things, and I was already in a bad mood so that didn't help. But even my thoughts were not Christian.

There is a way to live as a Christian – a way to think, to speak, and to act... and often I fall short in all three areas. It is difficult to be Christian. It is hard to live the teachings of Jesus Christ.

It is something that requires constant vigilance, daily effort, and never something that just happens.

The first step is to acknowledge that it is difficult so that we can assign the correct amount of effort required for success.



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