

“You shall love your neighbor as your self.” We’ve often heard the commandment. We know the commandment. It isn’t always easy to live the commandment, is it?

Here’s how a woman describes a taxi cab driver putting the commandment into practice:

“One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a silver car darted out of a parking space right in front on us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, “Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!” This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, “The Law of the Garbage Truck.”

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it. Sometimes they’ll dump it on you. Don’t take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them, well, and move on. Don’t take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets. Do not let garbage trucks take over your day.”

My sisters and brothers: This week we do our best to live out the commandment: Love your neighbor as your self. For sure it will continue to be a challenge. In the process, we may be blest with “garbage truck” free days.”