



Rector's Essay - Hitchhikers' Guide

By Jarrett Kerbel (04/24/26)

Driving home last Friday, I picked up a young man hitchhiking on Route 1 outside of Ellsworth. He had his thumb out, so I pulled over. As an adult man this is relatively safe for me. My wife would not do it and I respect her reasons. At the same time, I really do not want to live in a world of indifference driven by fear.

After we established his destination, I introduced myself and he told me his name. For our purposes, "Hanrry."

Harry looked in the back seat of my rented truck, spied my Stihl 391 chainsaw and said, "Hey, there is a chainsaw in the back. What do you do for a living?"

"I am a priest," I said, suppressing a smile.

"Oh," Harenry said, "I am not very religious but I carry a Bbible in my pocket wherever I go."

"That's great," I replied, "You don't have to be religious to have faith."

"Well, I am not sure if it is about faith," remarked Harenry, "It's more like a good luck charm to protect me." He went on to say, "You see, I am an alcoholic and the first time I opened up the Bible I landed on the verse that said something about Jesus coming for sinners, or something like that, and I thought, hey, that is me."

"Good passage to land on," I said. "I have lots of addicted people in my family and I can tell you that Jesus is the right guy to turn your will over to. You can trust him to pull you through."

“Yup. I put all my faith in Him,” Harry said with conviction.

Harry was referring to the place in the Gospel where Jesus says, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" ([Luke 5:32](#), [Matthew 9:13](#), [Mark 2:17](#))
Or, perhaps, "Those who are well have no need of a physician." (Matthew 9:12, Mark 2:17, Luke 5:31)

Harry is on point that Jesus is the one to hand over my willpower to for the sake of my sanity, sobriety, and over-all well-being. I know that his will for me is health and salvation, that I can trust him, and that he is undying in his faithfulness. He will see me through from death to life over and over.

1 Peter encourages us to “Have an account of the faith that is in us,” that we are ready to share. God gave me that opportunity with Harry and I was greatly blessed by God’s providence in that moment. Let us all be ready to share our sincere and heartfelt account of faith when God opens up space and time for us to share.