

A message so important – and perhaps so urgent
– that we hear it twice in the readings today:

“A voice crying in the desert: MAKE STRAIGHT A
HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!”

And so the picture: [a straight highway
disappearing into the horizon].

Two things that were on my mind this week with
this image.

When I was young still living at home – and after
I got my driver’s license, whenever I had to take the
car some place – the statement I always got from my
parents was: “Now come straight home.”

Now I have to admit I was home to see my mom a couple of weeks ago, and I was going out to have lunch with a friend of mine and as I was leaving, mom said, “Are you coming straight home?”

There is that never-ending parental instinct that they don't want us to get into trouble – by having any unnecessary detours on the way home. Detours act as a distraction – and distractions lead to, if not trouble, simply wasted time at getting to one's destination.

God has that never-ending parental instinct for us also. Make straight a path to the Lord --- so you aren't distracted, so you don't get into any trouble, so you don't waste time getting to your destination –

which ultimate for us, is the kingdom of God – and while on this earth, being molded and shaped more and more into the image and likeness of Christ.

Make straight the highway for our Lord!

The other thing that was on my mind this week – is that I joke there are places that my car can find almost automatically – because I go there so often. It's like if I could put my car on auto-pilot, it would be able to find its own way.

For instance, I added it up for last month, and I spent 12 hours on the road – just simply between here and Oak Grove/Odessa. . . So I make that trip often – the car should know how to do it on its own.

The frequency we go somewhere – does indicate what we value. . . So what are the straight roads – the auto-pilot places in our lives?

Another for me is my friend's house in Kansas City – where I spend my day off. It's perfect – he works during the day, so I have the place to myself – then we go out to eat when he gets home. So, every week, my car takes me there—because it is a place I value. . .

I wish I could say I have a straight way to the gym --- but I'm still working on that. . . A straight way to the library. . . I'm still working on that.

What are the straight ways in your life?? To work, to home—but then??? Hopefully to Church.

But then. . . the shopping mall? Arrowhead

/Kaufman Stadium?? The casino, a bar???

Make a straight way to the Lord. . . what do we
need to change in our lives, for this straight way to be
established???