



“Can you print out the ‘Sin Shoveling’ Instructions?”

This question came after a recent sermon in where I made the comparison between the steps required for shoveling a driveway and the steps required to get off a bad path and onto the good path God has laid out for you. (In other words, the steps required to repent).



1) Make a conscious decision to change “I should” into “I’m going to.”

No snow gets shoveled until you change “I should” into “I’m going out to...” In the same way, good intentions will never end up in a changed path for your life.

And when the thought hit me, “I’ll just drive over it. It’s going to all melt in a couple of months anyway,” it really helped to remember the likely consequences of doing that: 1) I’ll probably fall and break a wrist - or worse! 2) I know I’ll end up sliding off the driveway into the ditch some day. And 3) the dog will no doubt dislocate a hip on the icy driveway. Take a moment to think about the consequences - for you and those close to you - of staying on your current course.

2) Tell someone about your decision.

It will be much harder to revert back to “I should” if someone else knows about your decision. Find someone who will hold you to it!

3) Figure out the steps - usually simple - you need to take to get started.

For snow, I need to put on gloves, boots, a coat and grab a shovel.
Decide what you need to start doing (or stop doing) to change.

4) Break the change down into small, manageable segments.

Shoveling the whole driveway looked really daunting, but an 8' section looked veryt “doable.” The task of changing directions in some area of your life can also look way too difficult as a whole. But breaking the change down into “one day at a time,” makes all the difference in the world!

5) Take breaks to re-charge.

There’s no way I can shovel our 100' driveway without breaks - and snacks! In the same way you’ll need to take full advantage of the breaks God has given us: Worship on Sunday. Pray, asking His help several times a day. And make sure to snack on the “soul food” of God’s word to get the power you need to make your change.

6) Find someone who will help you.

Violet saying, “I’ll help you,” made the difference between “There’s no way I’m going out to shovel,” and “I can do this!” My guess is there are people in your life who would be more than willing to help you make a direction change to get on God’s path. Who are those people? Go ask them now!

7) Remember: It will snow again!

Once I'm done shoveling I need to remember that I will likely need to do it again soon. Once you get off your "bad" road and onto God's way, Satan will work hard to get you back onto his road! Celebrate your change, but don't even begin to think that you are done repenting. That friend who helps you - ask them to tell you when they see you making some wrong turns in the future.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net