

Shadows are unavoidable. But you can choose to walk on the sunny side of the street.



followers of Christ 

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died after testing his "flying taxi", an airborne vehicle meant to make travel between cities faster and cheaper.

The most obvious spiritual parallel to all of this is that God, in the human form of Christ, was killed by his own creation, if only temporarily. Only He did not get his just desserts and the murder of Jesus was neither accidental or the result of poor planning.

Though it's common for skeptics to say Jesus either had a martyr complex or simply lost control of circumstances and wound up on the cross without meaning to, he made it clear his death and resurrection were a love-driven plan to take the penalty for our sin so we could be reconciled with God "No one can take my life from me," he said. "I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want and also to take it up again. When he said this, the people were divided in their opinions of him." (John 10:18,19).

They still are. But that's what makes the sacrifice so astonishing. Jesus went to the cross knowing most of his creation would ignore or spurn his offering, and he went anyway. If you've ever suffered the ingratitude of others — even over something minor — you understand how galling such apathy would be for most of us.

But there's another important lesson for us, in that we, too, are often destroyed by situations of our own making. The Bible says we get what we give. "Don't be misled," says Galatians 6:7. "You cannot mock the justice of God. You'll always harvest what you plant."

Similarly, watch out for pride, impatience and poor planning. There's a time to take risks, but not if the goal is simply to cut corners or call attention to ourselves. Instead, we must seek and stay in sync with the will of God, be motivated by a genuine desire to serve him and those around us, and avoid exposure to anything that will poison our hearts and minds.

We can be sunk by sin, see our lives plummet because of a single bad decision, or become tangled in the strings and pulleys of snares like work, love of money or the pull of porn. Carelessness or callousness exact a heavy price when situations we create take us in, then take us out.



RICK GAMBLE

~ sharing Jesus and the journey ~

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Cross Current

real help for real life

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Costly Creations

Talk about a killer idea!

Throughout history, inventors have paid the supreme sacrifice at the hands of their own devices, as a result of ignorance or accident, impetuosity and poor planning, or because of an ironic reversal of circumstances.

One of the first killer creations was the brazen bull, invented by Greek metal worker Perillos for the Italian tyrant Phalaris. Made of bronze, the bull-shaped vessel was hollow with a side door. The accused were forced inside and roasted alive by a fire set underneath — including Perillos when he fell out of favour. Centuries later, James Douglas faced the same irony when he was executed on the Scottish Maiden, a forerunner of the guillotine he developed to behead enemies in Edinburgh.

But even benign devices have wrought havoc. Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier was the first known air fatality when his newly-invented balloon crashed in 1785; 40-year-old Confederate inventor Horace Lawson Hunley died in the first-ever combat submarine when it sank during a trial run in 1863; and French tailor Franz Reichelt plummeted to his death off the Eiffel tower when the "coat parachute" he invented failed.

Or consider the case of Marie Curie who invented the process to isolate radium. She died in 1934 of aplastic anemia from prolonged exposure to radiation, a threat little understood at the time. In fact, two scientists working on the invention of the atom bomb also died from radiation poisoning.

And in 1944, engineer Thomas Midgley died after contracting polio at age 51. Not from the disease, but from strangulation when he got entangled in a complex system of strings and pulleys he invented to lift him out of bed. Even as recently as 2009, inventor Michael Dacre

