

Community Comment – August 15th, 2016

By Jon Sapper

Keep It Simple

“Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.” Confucius said that. Now, how is it possible things were that complex when Confucius was running around? For crying out loud, he lived 2500 years ago. He didn’t have a Facebook page where other philosophers could jump on his case for making an outrageous comment about life. He didn’t have a Twitter account where he could blast a reply to the entire world in a matter of seconds. He couldn’t even call Aristotle on a cell phone. Aristotle wouldn’t have answered anyway since he wasn’t born yet. But Confucius was a teacher, politician and respected philosopher who believed in respect, moral behavior, honesty and sincerity. You know, like most of our national politicians today.

But, let’s get back to this simplicity thing. I grew up in a family where hard work was important with my father teaching me old values like: If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing right; Don’t leave for tomorrow what you can do today; If you can find someone else to do your work, more power to you. No, he didn’t say that last part, but I’m getting to the age where that approach might not be a bad idea.

Like last weekend when I was hauling some brush and chunks of wood. I’d load up my pickup, drive to where I was dumping it, unload it and go back for some more. After five loads, I was getting tired. Let’s just get this done. So, in a hurry I started throwing this green waste into the bed of my truck, and getting a little too ambitious, I threw one of the chunks of wood right through my back window. It was one of those three pane smoked glass with a slider in the middle frame things. After saying, “Oh darn,” I took a closer look. The glass that was left made a nice looking spider web design, complete with micro-chips that wouldn’t cut you when you tried pulling them out. I really didn’t know a window could break into that many pieces. But, figuring it would cost at least a hundred bucks to replace it, I decided to start the process. After calling around and not hearing what I wanted to hear, I accepted the fact that the one small window couldn’t be replaced. Nooooo, I’d have to buy a whole new back window, slider and all. The cheapest quote I got was \$840 not including installation. I thought, “You’ve got to be kidding!”

Then I made a call to a local wrecking yard and the gentleman said, "We don't have one, but I checked the national data base and can get you one from Texas for \$285 and it'll be here in 3 days. I said, "Let's do it." Great customer service. Confucius would have been proud.

You know, sometimes the easiest way really is to just let someone else do it. And that goes for hauling the brush and wood, too.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.