

“Remember, one text or call could wreck it all.” These words blared through the sub-par sound system of Nicholas’s 2013 Toyota Camry. He was driving to the mall on a Saturday with his friend, Sebastian. Nicholas had been told many stories of negative outcomes of distracted driving. Driver’s Ed nailed it into his head, and he understood the importance of taking it to heart.

“They should have more of those on the radio,” Nicholas said.

“What?” replied Sebastian.

“The PSAs about distracted driving, people outta have more reminders to stay safe.”

“I dunno, I guess. I’m safe when I use my phone.”

“You can’t use your phone, it’s not safe at all, didn’t you take Driver’s Ed?”

“Well yeah, but of course they have to teach that, most people don’t look up enough when they use their phone.” These words corroded coarsely against Nicholas’s temper.

“Are you serious?” He replied, “You think they just teach that because people don’t have common sense to look up? Texting while driving has led to numerous crashes and deaths!”

“Whatever, you just do what makes you feel comfortable I guess...” Sebastian’s words continued to anger Nicholas, now preparing him for a full argument. How could his friend be this careless with his life?

“Whatever makes me comfortable!? How about whatever doesn’t kill me! When you’re not focused on driving, you don’t have control of the car, and your life is at the mercy of the road!

Meanwhile, the road in question was eavesdropping. With no mercy at all, continued with a sharp left curve at the bottom of a hill. During Nicholas and Sebastian’s stubborn and pointless conversation, neither of them had noticed that they were going too fast for the turn, veering off the curb and into a tree. It was quite a large tree, crushing right through the passenger side of the car, killing his friend Sebastian on impact. It never occurred to Nicholas that something so innocent as an argument could distract enough to take a life. After all, he was completely in favor of staying safe on the road, yet it was because of his own ignorance that his friend had died.

Belief is only the first step in arriving alive. Only in practice will safe driving make a difference.