



## TRAFFIC COURT - MERGE

<b>Sign:</b>	Merge
<b>Characters:</b>	Show Host, Bailiff, Judge, Elaine Excuses, and Officer Con Viction
<b>Props/Costumes:</b>	Judge can wear a graduation gown, gavel
<b>Theme:</b>	Don't neglect fellowship!
<b>Verse:</b>	"Let us encourage one another through our assembling together." (Heb. 10:25)

### Script

**Show host:** Welcome to Judge (*Judy*) Traffic Court. Today's show will feature our defendant, Elaine Excuses. Elaine Excuses has been ticketed for failure to merge with ongoing traffic. Now let's join our show.

**Bailiff:** All rise. The (*date*) session of Traffic Court is now in session, the Honorable Judge (*Judy*) presiding. (*Judge walks in*) You may be seated. Your Honor, our plaintiff today is Elaine Excuses.

**Judge:** You have been charged with failure to merge with ongoing traffic. I know you have a road map, Ms. Excuses. Have you read the rules of the road in the travel guide?

**Elaine:** Yes, most of them, Your Honor.

**Judge:** Am I correct in assuming that you have been ignoring the "Merge" sign?

**Elaine:** (*indignant*) Not ignoring, Your Honor. I am well aware of those "Merge" signs. But my circumstances have made it virtually impossible for me to merge as much as I would like to...

**Judge:** (*a little sarcastic*) I can hardly wait to hear... Now you do understand what the sign means Ms. Excuses? You have read Hebrews chapter 10 verse 25 in the statutes which clearly states, "Let us not give up our merging, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another"?

**Elaine:** Yes, Your Honor, but I can explain.

**Judge:** First, I'd like to ask just how long has it been since you've merged, Ms Excuses?

**Elaine:** Oh, I merge at least twice a month—I'm sure of it!

**Judge:** Officer Con Viction?

**Officer Con Viction:** Your honor Ms. Excuses has only merged 12 times in the last year. That would be a minimum of 40 weekly opportunities she passed by on Sundays--as well as a multitude of additional opportunities during the week.

**Elaine:** (*gasps in shock!*) You're kidding! I can't believe that's true!

- Judge:** Believe it, Ms. Excuses. Officer Con Viction always keep accurate records. Maybe it would save us time if you explained why you were able to attend those twelve times. (*sarcastic*)
- Elaine:** No, Your Honor. I truly want to merge—you have to believe that!
- Judge:** (*sighs and nods head as if expressing her weariness*). Ok, Ms. Excuses, go ahead and explain your "special" circumstances.
- Elaine:** Thank you, Your Honor. You must know, Your Honor, how this year has flown by.... Let's see... well, I remember early in the year when I passed the merge sign I was sick. You know how disruptive coughing can be when you are merging. Another week, I had promised the kids that I would take them to the amusement park. We had a coupon for Sunday, and we had to be a good steward of our funds. I didn't want to spend all that money at the park and only be able to stay for a couple of hours. Another week, I was just too tired to merge. I had stayed up late watching a movie and I just overslept. You know, the weekends are the only days I have to catch up on my sleep.
- Judge:** So that accounts for three misses...
- Elaine:** OK, let me think. Well, one week I brought some work home from the office that needed to be finished. And then there was that week that I had to catch up on my e-mail. Oh—and don't forget the weeks that we had things to do with family. My in-laws are always inviting us over for something.
- Judge:** AND....
- Elaine:** Let's see—Oh, remember when we had that tornado warning? I didn't think it would be wise to merge in that weather. Oh, and I got a long distance call one time when I was planning to merge—and I would have been late, so I didn't merge that week..... (*thinking hard*)... .. I-I-I...can't really think of any more...
- Judge:** Ms. Excuses, the road to Eternal Life requires commitment and priorities. I have a list Officer Con Viction has given me of reasons that you gave him that you failed to merge.
- Elaine:** Ohhhhh. Uh-oh!
- Judge:** Shall I read a few? Your dress wasn't ironed, it looked like rain, you couldn't find your travel guide, you needed to clean your house, your water was shut off, car problems, you needed to run to Walmart for some supplies, it was too hot, it was too cold, the grass needed to be mowed, it was the perfect day for a picnic, you decided to listen to a preacher on the radio instead, a department store sale, you had a pimple on your nose, you forgot to shave your legs, you stubbed your toe on the way to the car ... shall I continue?
- Elaine:** OK, OK. I get the picture. I did make a point to go last week after Officer Con Viction issued me a citation—and it wasn't easy for me, let me tell you!
- Judge:** And why is that?

**Elaine:** Well, my kids all had something else planned. And they had homework to do. I just about had to drag them.

**Judge:** Does that surprise you? You haven't made merging a priority—why would your kids?

**Elaine:** *(ashamed)* You're right, Your Honor.

**Judge:** Do you understand what the primary purpose of merging is Ms. Excuses?

**Elaine:** Well, once you do merge, it always is enjoyable to be with others who are traveling on the same road.

**Judge:** Oh, there's much more to it than that.

**Elaine:** I am not sure if I know what you mean, Your Honor.

**Judge:** We merge to worship the Lord. The travel guide reminds us that "Where two or three merge together in my name, there am I with them." Also, it is important to gather together for a time of uplifting and encouragement for the road. You see, if you don't fill your cup and renew yourself in the Lord, you will stumble in times of adversity. The road trip will be dreary and hard. However, merging allows you to regularly fill your cup--and then you remain stronger for the road ahead.

**Elaine:** I have to say, I have felt very lonely on this road to eternal life.

**Judge:** Surely you know, Ms. Excuses, that we are never truly alone on the road. But when we let our light shine among our brethren, we encourage them on their journey along the road as well, and they encourage us. The road traveled **alone** seems much longer and more difficult. The travel guide reminds us that "two are better than one, for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falls." There are people who have been on the road longer than you have that can teach you how to make it through the hard times on the road.

**Elaine:** Your Honor, I truly intend to merge more regularly! I know that by continuing on alone I shortchange myself most of all.

**Judge:** That's very true, Ms. Excuses. When you don't merge regularly, you don't get very far on the road to Eternal Life. Your friends and families suffer as well.

**Elaine:** Your honor, I am sorry for my actions. It is my heart's desire to be pleasing to God.

**Judge:** It will be much easier to live a life that honors God if you practice merging whenever and wherever you can. You are going to have to really make some effort to die to yourself again---you have acquired some habits that need to be changed! I must ask that you give Officer Con Viction your total attention every time he stops you when you consider not merging. No more of these flimsy excuses, Ms. Excuses!

**Elaine:** *(humbled)* OK, Your Honor.

**Judge:** Court is adjourned. *(bangs gavel)*

**Show host:** It is so easy to find a reason to not go to church or attend Bible study. There is always some excuse that seems logical and convincing. We need to remember that the enemy always wants to isolate us. We are weaker when we are away from other believers. We need the fellowship and the accountability, as well as the prayers of our fellow believers! Make "MERGING" regularly a priority!