

On the Road with Jesus: Introduction
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Lynn Haven UMC

Introduction

“As the time approached when Jesus was to be taken up into heaven, he determined to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51 CEB) During this season of Lent, we’re going to make the same journey through a sermon series called, “On the Road with Jesus”. Our destination is the same as it was for Jesus – Jerusalem. But like it did for Him, it represents more than a mere location. It is a way of life, a way of death, and a way of resurrection. It is only by joining Jesus on the road that we can be saved and live as God intends us to live.

The disciples were willing to be on the road with Jesus because they were certain He had been sent by God to show them the road to travel and the path to take. As a matter of fact, using language found in John’s gospel, they concluded Jesus was the Way. They believed Christ when he said, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” (John 14:6 NIV) As a result, they stayed by His side and traveled with the Lord to Jerusalem.

Digging Deeper

We too are willing to be on the road with Jesus when we believe He is...

The WAY.

- What a comfort it is to be certain of the way without having to enlist the help of Google maps, or heaven forbid, an *actual* map, as we move along this earth on our journey to heaven! Jesus establishes our path by telling us that He is the only way to the Father. How do you respond when someone of a different belief system challenges this truth?

The TRUTH.

- You’ve heard the expression “What would Jesus do?” Have you ever tried thinking in this way when faced with an important decision? Even in trivial matters, it would be prudent to consider Jesus’ example when charting a course of action. There are plenty of negative voices out there telling us lies about how we should think, act, and feel. Sometimes those voices are even our own. Do you look to Jesus to speak truth into your life? Can you share an example of a time when His direction was clearly made known to you?

THE LIFE.

- In John 10:10 (NIV), we hear His good news that “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” It is impossible to live a full life apart from Jesus. How has the way you live your life changed since making the decision to follow Christ?
- Before Jesus, we were dead in our sin. Ponder Romans 6:4 (NLT). “For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” We are new creations in Christ. What does that mean to you? How do you reply when people ask if you know who you are In Christ?

Conclusion

Sometimes people say, "Christianity is a better way of life than the world has to offer." That is absolutely not true. The reality is, Christianity is life itself! Life without Jesus isn't really life at all, it is merely existing. The folks who originally got on the road with Jesus to Jerusalem understood this. It seems to be a no-brainer that we too should strap on our sandals and get "On the Road" with the only One who knows the way, speaks the truth, and delivers life. If you haven't already, will you decide today to follow Jesus and make Him the path you choose to take?