

We talked last week about Jesus' consistent invitation to people, 'Follow Me.' He invites us to an ongoing, growing relationship with Him, and a life lived in close fellowship with Him.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

I. The 'Way'

A. Biblical uses/meanings of the word

1. The Old and New Testaments use the word as a synonym/metaphor for man's pattern/path of life and behavior (Psalm 1:6; Mat 7:13-14, 2Pet 21:15)
2. Jesus spoke to His disciples of Himself as the way, the single road to God.
3. In the Book of Acts, 'the Way' was a label used for the early Christian movement (Acts 9:2, 19:9,23; 24:14, 22)

B. Followers of Jesus, people of 'the Way,' are on a 'faith journey' with Christ, a pilgrimage.

1. We don't necessarily know where we are going, but we do know Who we are traveling with.
2. *If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. (John 12:26)*
3. *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. (Psm 119:105)*
4. *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the **way**, **walk** in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. (Isa 30:21)*

C. Sometimes we get things turned around as we walk with Jesus.

1. It's good to ask, 'Am I following Jesus or am I asking Him to follow me?'
2. *If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. (John 12:26)*
3. "Make sure the song you sing is the song Jesus is singing."

II. The Way... Following Jesus

A. Some life experiences 'along the way'...

1. It's the way of Nazareth – the years of common tasks, lived righteously
2. It's the way of the wilderness – facing temptation and struggle
3. It's the way of ministry – being available to serve God by meeting human need
4. It's the way of Gethsemane – the agony and travail of situations
5. It's the way of Calvary and the Cross – dying to self, walking thru suffering
 - a. *Phil 3:10 ..that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...*
6. It's the way of resurrection life and power – in this life and beyond.

B. People who follow Jesus have a 'way' about them...

1. Jesus has come to transform our lives, not give us a book of rules or traditions to follow.
2. Guard against focusing on 'other stuff'...
3. We are called to love God... and to love people.
 - a. As we follow Jesus, don't miss the 'people' He leads us to.
4. Jesus said, 'Follow Me' – He is the Way in every circumstance and situation in life.

This thing we call life is a journey, a pilgrimage. Originating in the heart of God, through birth entry into the human and rebirth entry into the divine, we walk along the unique path that is our one and only life. Walk with Jesus and you learn: you learn your sin; you learn your salvation; you learn the meaning of grace. You get the answers, or you learn to live with the questions as you go with Jesus. Sometimes you just inhabit the mystery as you walk with Jesus. – (Leonard Sweet)