

Introduction:

- Last week: Faith is Journey. This morning: Faith is a journey shared.
- Have you ever heard someone say something like, "Well, you know. When it comes right down to it, all I really need is God." I have heard Christians use phrases like this before. I used to think to myself, "Lord, I want to get to where all I need is you." The reality is that in this faith walk with God. We really do need each other!
- Have you ever looked at an individual snowflake? Snowflakes are very frail, but if enough of them stick together, they can stop traffic and even shut down a city. APPLICATION Likewise, by God's design, the lone Christian has little impact on the world. But when two or three are gathered together, that's when Christ's presence is felt (Matthew 18:20). When the diverse gifts of the individual members of a local church begin operating cooperatively, that's when ministry takes place (1Corinthians 12:12). Gifts operate by faith.

I. God Has A Planned Destination (It involves others)

A. Destiny and/or destination speaks of purpose.

1. There are two commands given to us in scripture. Commands that are given by Jesus.
 - a) Love God
 - b) Love each other
 - c) Do those two commands and you will have fulfilled all the scriptures.
 - d) *"Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is **the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.***" (Matthew 22:37-40, NLT)
2. Last week I shared: ***The greatest plan that God has for your life is an ongoing up to date relationship with you! This is first and foremost. He loves you and wants to be close to you.
3. If our greatest destination in this life is to walk with God, though we may not see the end of the journey, may I propose this: ...

B. God never intended us to make this journey alone.

1. Take these words for instance: *"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."* (Genesis 2:18, NLT)
 - a) It is not good for man to be alone, separated, isolated. IE. Let us think for a moment about this. Adam was with God. Adam had God. Yet God said, "It is not good for him to be alone." So even though Adam was made in the image of God. He realized something about their relationship and it caused God to say of Adam, "It is not good for him to be alone." Adam never said he was alone. This was a God observation.
 - (1) God did not say "It is not good for man to be single." There are many christians who are married and yet deeply alone in their relationship! visa versa there are many singles who have intimate friendships and are not alone.
 - (2) God is totally happy with Himself. He is triune/three in one.
 - (3) Man, though he is spirit, soul and body, is not triune.

- (4) God created man with a desire to be in fellowship with others. We were designed/ made to love. And because we are made to love we need others in our lives in order to express that love.
- b) God said, *"I will make a helper."* Heb. Ezer - to help, to assist. Is it interesting that while Adam is naming the animals that he begins to experience 'alone' or not having a helper. Gen 2:20.
- (1) It is here that God causes a sleep to come upon Adam and He forms woman out of man's rib.
- (2) Note Adam's response when he sees her: *"At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"* (Genesis 2:23, NLT) Finally! The woman answered a desire of Adam's life. To have a companion or someone to do life with.
- (3) This desire is what Jesus expresses in wanting a Bride. This is not a sexual thing! It is a desire to share life together with His Bride, the church.
- C. God's intention is that we would reach our God-given destination together. Two commands: Love God, and Love each other. This is the ultimate destination in this life: to love well. We can't do it without each other.
1. We were created to do life together! This faith walk/journey, was intended for us to share.
 2. Scriptures: Notice that two commands stand all the way to the destination!
 - a) Adam was given Eve. Cain and Able had a family. Cain was isolated and sinned.
 - b) Noah had his family. Yet we see sin tear at the very fabric of faith they shared.
 - c) Abraham went looking for that city whose builder and maker is God. He had Sarah as his companion. Heb 11:9-10
 - d) Moses had Aaron and Joshua
 - e) David had Jonathan
 - f) The 12 were sent out by twos.
 - g) Barnabas had Saul, later Paul had Silas
 - h) At the end of the book, Jesus gets His Bride!
 - i) All of these though on their individual journey were a part of salvation's history. They affected the lives of nations and of others regarding relationship to God.

II. Faith is the Vehicle

- A. Faith occurs when we come into agreement with what God has said (revelation).
1. *"I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you."* (Matthew 18:19, NLT)
 - a) Agree - Gr. symphoneo - to be in harmony with. *"In the NT symphōnéō means "to correspond," "to be at one," "to agree." In Luke 5:36 the new cloth does not fit in with the old. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 1292). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.*
 - b) We must be in agreement with God first, agreement with Jesus.
 2. Then we must be in concert/in agreement with each other. *"Where two or three come together in [His] name...vs 20,"* concerted intercession produces effects on the earth!

- a) The word translated "come together" (vs20) is a the Greek word sunago, which means "to join together; to make one." It is the composite of two words: *sun*, which means to bring into complete union, and *ago*, which means to lead, guide or induce.
 - b) The verb is in the passive tense, which means that the subject (two or three intercessors) is acted upon. They do not come together on their own initiative, but are brought together. They are led into complete union. We must look for this drawing together in our journey through life. Ie. Many time I have been brought together with others by 'our own doing' only to find out later that it was God all the time. IE. Pastors prayer/'95 renewal.
3. *"Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?"* (Amos 3:3, NLT)
 4. If we are living lives of faith while on the journey...the hi way of life we find faith to be so very powerful to our walk, our growth and our advance. Put that individual faith together with others and we have exponential increase!
- B. Jesus and the faith of friends *"Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven.""* (Mark 2:5, NLT)
1. Jesus saw their faith! Jesus recognized the faith of these friends that brought the paralytic to Him. That is so powerful! So often we view faith as an individual thing that we must do, or we must accomplish on our own. When the reality is, Jesus loves it when we believe Him together!
 2. Again, we see the power of agreement between two or three as touching this one thing. I remind you again...take time to read in the NT the words *"one another."* Faith in action, together knits the hearts together.
 3. In the story we see crowds and we see friends. Lets make a couple of observations.
 - a) The crowds were spiritual, they were in the presence of Jesus yet they blocked the way to Jesus. Crowds will often block the journey of faith from you.
 - b) Friends walk the journey of faith with you. Friends are determined no matter the cost. It was the faith of friends that brought healing to this man.
 4. Faith occurs when we come into agreement with God's word. And faith is charged all the more when exercised together with others.
 - a) Your faith brings hope to the hopeless because it brings **you and Christ.**
 - b) Your faith brings healing to the sick because it brings **you and Christ.**
 - c) Your faith brings strength to weak because it brings **you and Christ.**
 5. You and others in agreement with God create a symphony! You can dance by yourself but the real beauty in dancing is when it is done with others. *His creativity is amazing! His rhythm is unmatched! And His movement is so seamless! Do you wanna dance?*

III. The Journey Is Our Road

- A. What does it mean to journey? Journey is about what we discover and most importantly what we discover about ourselves and each other in the process. Let me break this down for you.
 1. A journey is travel or passage from one place to another. It is everything that happens in between point A and B. Like I said last week, it is not so much as what happens as it is what happens in us.

- a) IE. Would Lord of the Rings have been as good if Frodo did not have Sam in his travels? Would Star wars have been as good if Luke did not have Hans Solo as a friend? What makes the story is not the events it is what happens in the hearts and lives of those who travel together. The events bring them together, create obstacles that must be overcome together.
- b) The transformation of the characters makes it real, makes it relatable and draws us in. The events make it interesting the transformation makes it real and relatable. Let me ask you: In light of the events of life, what is the transformation that is taking place inside of you because of others? These can seem both positive and negative.
 - (1) IE. the contention: Acts 15:37-40 "We are not taking Mark." Barnabas and Paul part ways. Barnabas takes Mark, Paul takes Silas. Then later: *"Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry."* (2 Timothy 4:11, NLT)
 - (2) Another Paul example of transformation: Writing to the Corinthians, he calls himself "the least of the apostles unworthy to be called an apostle because [he] persecuted the church of God (1 Cor 15:9). To the Ephesians about five years later, he refers to himself as the very least of all the saints (Eph3:8). Near the end of his life, he considers himself the foremost of sinners (1Tim 1:15). Doing life together bring this about.
2. A journey is not so much about the final destination but about how we got there and what happened in us as we traveled.
 - a) Numbers - lack of faith delayed the promise 40 years.
 - b) Joshua had Caleb - agreement of faith brought them into the promised land.
 - c) IE. Pastor Jay and I have stories that knit our heart together.
- B. Our Journey has to do with our corporate assignment from God.
 1. God set Abraham on a journey. To be Father of many nations. A child of the promise was to be given to this man of faith.
 2. David was to bring forth an eternal Kingdom.
 3. Paul was to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles. Pilgrimage add purpose to the journey. If pilgrimage adds purpose to the journey and discovery is part of the journey the implication is that there are things hidden from us along the way that God intends us to discover. *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter."* (Prov 25:2)
 4. Freedom Journey as apostle Andreas Kyriacou reminded us is to Save, Train, and Commission.

Conclusion:

- The journey is not always easy. Sometimes it is just outright hard.
- Maybe you would like to join the journey this morning by giving your life to Christ today.
- *"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.* Ecc 4:10