

The Jesus Way – You are Never Alone

Think back to your childhood experiences... Do you remember ever being lost? Do you remember how it felt? What did you do in that moment of realization? Where did you go? To whom did you turn? And how were you found?

When Jesus was 12 yrs old, he was left behind in Jerusalem after his family made their yearly trip to the temple for the Feast of Passover. **Luke 2:41-49**

The text says that "***the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem... His parents didn't know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey... After three days they found him...***" That's a long time to be lost...

Can you imagine being Mary & Joseph? Can you imagine being Jesus? The text doesn't fill us in on the details of those three days, but it does tell us where he was found... and what he was doing during that time...

- He was found in the place he was most familiar with...
- He was found with the people he felt most safe with...
- He was found doing what was most helpful in such a circumstance...

When we are lost... & we don't know where to go... or where to turn... or what to do... "**The Jesus Way**" is to be in the Father's House... to be with the Father's people... & to engage in the Father's business of making the Father known!!!

Are you feeling lost right now in life? Then follow these footsteps of Jesus!

I also want us to think about a time in our lives when we felt alone... We weren't lost... we just felt that we were completely on our own! Been there?

Jesus has also been there... **In Matthew 4:1-11** we see Jesus being led into the wilderness, where he would stay for 40 days all alone. The only visitor he had was Satan tempting him & trying to hijack God's purpose for his life!

- Jesus was in a state of vulnerability... He was hungry from fasting 40 days!
- Satan was in a place of great opportunity... Jesus was all alone!
- Temptation was at an all-time high...

What did Jesus do when He found Himself all alone & the target of Satan's attacks? He turned to what He knew was true... what He knew could protect Him... & what He knew would sustain Him in His weakness... The Scriptures!

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" How often do we neglect this truth?

Jesus knew that when we as human beings find ourselves alone, vulnerable, & tempted, only God's Word can protect us, sustain us, and lead us forward!

Where have we turned in similar situations? "**The Jesus Way**" turns to the Scriptures because it is there that we find the Words of life!

So, if you are feeling alone, pick up God's Word & read it! You'll realize that you are not alone... these Words were made flesh & He is present with you!

And remember that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, so that we can know that we too can be victorious in Him, no matter our circumstances!

So... the Jesus Way is to be in the house of God... & to be in the Word of God... but walking this path can/will still be a lonely journey – **Matthew 7:13-14**

"For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." So, what do we do when we find our way, when we resist temptation, but we still feel alone? Well... what did Jesus do?

John 1:43 – "The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'"

Mark 1:16-17 – "Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon & Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, & I will make you fishers of men.'"

When Jesus was ready to embark on this narrow road, He invited others to join Him! So when we find ourselves in a place of loneliness because we feel like we are the only ones on this path... follow ***the Jesus Way*** & invite others!

Our numbers may be small... & the "yes" men/women may not be the most popular or influential... but Jesus changed the world with only a handful!

Do we dare to believe that "***the Jesus Way***" of being in the Father's House, standing upon the Father's Word, and inviting others to join us in living into the Father's plan will ensure that we will never be lost, or alone, again?

As a human being, Jesus experienced these things, so that when we go through similar situations, we know that we can turn to Him & be assured that He not only understands, but that He can also lead us through it!

Are you lost... Are you tempted to throw in the towel... Are you feeling alone... Remember "***the Jesus Way***" & you will be found... you will overcome... and you will never walk alone!

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