

Sunday, April 15, 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sermon: Finding the Route

Read Genesis 12:1-9



We are called by Jesus to follow Him. How do we know how to go? We do not have a map, a GPS, or even street signs to follow. Abraham was called by God to do something new. He had to know that it was God calling him or he would not have changed his whole life. How do we know what God is calling us to do?



Abraham was called to start a new people. It was not going to be easy. It meant leaving his family and going off on his own. He did not really have a home like we would think of one. He was a nomad, but he would have stayed in an area with which he was familiar and traveled with his family. When God chose Abraham to start a new people God called him to leave where he was. To begin a new people he needed a new start. Abraham had to go where he would not be influenced by the people who would want him to follow the old ways.



We do not usually have the voice of God speak to us as clearly as Abraham heard. How do we know how to follow Jesus. The main way is to study the Bible. The Bible is God's Word for us. The Bible has to be read to understand it. The Bible was written for all people. You do not have to be a scholar to understand what the Bible says to us. It is important to understand the world of the original people who heard the Bible, but it not a mysterious book. There are no secret codes in the Bible. God inspired the Bible to be written so that we can know what He is saying to us. There is nothing magical about the Bible that just having it will do for us. It is meant for us to read and study. God wants us to know it.



The Bible does not answer every question we have. We have to use the Bible as a guide to our thinking. A way to do this is to keep asking ourselves “what would Jesus do?” To know the answer to that question we need to know the Bible. We have to understand that life and teaching of Jesus, which we can only find in the Bible. We read of the life of Jesus and then we put that into work in our lives. A danger in this question is that we decide what we want to do and then we use our reason to decide that Jesus wants to do what we want to do, instead of what He really wants. We need to be careful with this. There is a tendency for us to try to make God in our own image instead of allowing ourselves to be conformed to the image of Jesus. Knowing the way we can abuse this question and being sure we do not fall into the trap we can follow Jesus by trying to live as He does.



As we follow Jesus one check we have is to see if we are seeing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. The fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith and self control. If we are not experiencing the fruit then we need to check our course. This can be deceiving so we need to be careful. Our feelings can disguise the fruit. An example is that we can confuse happiness and joy. We can be happy for a while and not be following Jesus, or we may go through hardships following Christ and we think we have lost our joy. We need to be very careful on examining the fruit of the Spirit, but when we are faithful to Jesus then the fruit will develop in our lives. We need a guide in life. Jesus is that guide. He will show us the route that we should take in our lives.