

That The World May Know: Walking With God in the Desert – Session 5: They Were Not Wandering

The Paths We Walk

To walk God's path is the most amazing adventure a person can experience in life. When we walk God's path, we choose to live in obedience to his words and commands and thereby experience a life-giving relationship with the Creator of the universe! If we choose the righteous, life-giving path as opposed to the path of sin and wickedness, we still have to deal with the variety of life experiences that occur on our path through life.

1. God has promised to watch, protect, and provide for his people as they walk his path. What risks did the Hebrews face just by being in the desert? How did God meet their needs?

Nehemiah 9:19 – 21

What kinds of paths did David say God led him through? Were they all easy? What made it possible for David to walk where they led?

Psalm 23

2. What kinds of paths are we inclined to stumble? Where is God when we face those dangerous paths?

Psalm 37:23 – 24

3. What are the dangers of unfamiliar paths, darkness, and rough places? What will God do for those who faithfully seek to walk his path?

Isaiah 42:14 - 17

Know the Path and Choose It

We each have a certain lifestyle or life to live, which someone from Jesus' day would be likely to describe as a "path" on which we "walk." God has a path or way that he walks too, and he wants us to walk it with him.

1. When giving the law to the Hebrews, Moses clearly explained how to walk in harmony with God? What is the fundamental choice a person must make in order to walk with God?

Leviticus 26:1 – 13

God will bless his people in amazing ways if they choose to walk in his path. What is the greatest blessing of all?

2. What kind of life or path did the prophet Jeremiah call God's people to search for? Why?

Jeremiah 6:16 – 20

Why is knowing about the ancient paths not sufficient for finding rest?

What is crucial to living in harmony with God where one's soul finds rest?

3. When Jesus invited people to come to Him and take on His yoke, which meant to obey his teachings, what did He say they would find?

Matthew 11:25 – 30

What was Jesus saying about himself in relationship to the ancient path?

Jeremiah 6:16

If we want to walk in God's path, how important is it that we obey Jesus' teachings?

Walking God's Path Prepares the Way

God has prepared a path (way) for us to walk, and we walk that path by obeying his Word, the Bible. When we walk in God's path, he promises to bless us and to walk with us. Consider these examples of righteous people who have gone before you and learn from them how to walk God's path and prepare his way – that highway through the desert.

1. God chose Abraham to walk in his path and father a people who would prepare the way of the lord. How was Abraham to accomplish this?

Genesis 18:18 – 19

Did Abraham walk God's path in the way God wants his people to prepare his way today?

2. When the Hebrews were in the desert, what did God command them to do in order to prepare his way?

Deuteronomy 5:32 – 33

Deuteronomy 10:12 – 13

3. What instructions did David give to Solomon regarding how to walk in God's path?

1 Kings 2:1 – 4

1 Kings 3:10 – 14

What indicates that at least at the beginning of his reign, Solomon sought to walk in God's path as Abraham had?

1 Kings 3:10 – 11

4. What does Psalm 15 teach you about how to walk God's path in daily life?

Stones and Rocks on the Path

In the biblical world, most people traveled from place to place on foot. Some of the paths they walked were wide and well worn. Other paths were well traveled but narrow and dangerous. Still others were difficult to follow.

1. Some “stones” that we may encounter on our own path are caused by other people or natural forces. Notice how difficult or painful the trouble was and think of times when you have encountered similar stones on your life’s path.

Abraham – Genesis 12:1 – 10
Hezekiah – 2 Kings 20:1 – 3
Job – Job 1:13 – 20
The Widow – 1 Kings 17:12 – 18
Joseph – Genesis 37:14 – 28

2. What happens when people cling to the path of rebellion and refuse to walk in God’s path?

Proverbs 4:18 – 19
Jeremiah 18:15
Hosea 14:9
Romans 9:30 – 33

3. Although those who encounter stones while walking God’s path still face struggle, loss, and pain, what attitudes of praise, gratitude, and hope does God’s loving presence inspire?

Psalms 56:10 – 13
Psalm 119:161 – 168
Proverbs 3:21 – 26

Honey in the Rock

The biblical writers often portray God and his interaction with his people figuratively, using familiar images from their world. They describe God as bread and living water, shade and the refuge of solid rock. And they describe God’s people experiencing him through their senses—Hearing, seeing, touching and tasting.

1. The Hebrews spent four centuries in Egypt, and at the time of their deliverance many of them no longer knew their God. What did they experience as they walked the desert path that caused them to rediscover their God and learn to trust and obey him?

Deuteronomy 8:2 – 3
Deuteronomy 32:10 – 13

2. During their desert journey, the Hebrews craved the food of Egypt, and God responded by raining down “bread from heaven” to satisfy them. What did the manna taste like? In what sense did it give them a taste of God?

Exodus 16:1 – 1
Exodus 16:31 – 35

3. Who did Jesus say was the source of the bread of heaven the Hebrews received in the desert?

John 6:30 – 35

How did Jesus use God’s provision of manna to teach about Himself?

References

Genesis 3	Genesis 12
Genesis 18	Genesis 37
Exodus 14 – 19	Exodus 24
Exodus 25	Exodus 40
Leviticus 26	Numbers 21
Deuteronomy 5	Deuteronomy 8
Deuteronomy 10	Deuteronomy 26
Deuteronomy 28	Deuteronomy 30
Deuteronomy 32	2 Samuel 11
2 Samuel 12	2 Samuel 15
2 Samuel 17	2 Samuel 18
2 Samuel 22	1 Kings 2
1 Kings 3	1 Kings 17
2 Kings 20	2 Chronicles 33
Psalms 1	Psalms 15
Psalms 16	Psalms 18
Psalms 19	Psalms 23
Psalms 34	Psalms 37
Psalms 46	Psalms 56
Psalms 81	Psalms 84
Psalms 85	Psalms 91
Psalms 119	Proverbs 2
Proverbs 3	Proverbs 4
Proverbs 14	Proverbs 15
Proverbs 24	Proverbs 28
Isaiah 2	Isaiah 30
Isaiah 40	Isaiah 42
Isaiah 57	Isaiah 62
Jeremiah 6	Jeremiah 18
Ezekiel 3	Daniel 4
Hosea 14	Micah 6
Nehemiah 9	Job 1
Job 29	Malachi 3
Matthew 3	Matthew 4
Matthew 11	Mark 1
Luke 1	John 1
John 6	John 14
Romans 9	Colossians 3
1 John 2	