August 6, 2017

Series: Asking for Directions

Growth Track Step 1 - Know God

Give a result of generosity …

6 a.m. Prayer Meetings this week - 9 a.m. on Saturday

**The Guide**

John 14:15-31

**Intro:** Massachusetts once had a Governor named Christian Herter. He was running hard for a second term in office. One day he had been campaigning very hard - no lunch - arrived at a church picnic. Was very hungry - got in line - there was a woman serving chicken. The governor stuck out his plate. She put a piece of chicken on his plate and turned to the next person in line.

The governor asked, “Excuse me, do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?”

“Sorry,” the woman said, “I’m supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person.”

“But I’m starved,” the governor said.

“Sorry,” the woman said. “Only one to a customer.”

The governor was a fairly modest man, but he decided his hunger was more important than his modesty. “Do you know who I am?” I’m the governor of this state.”

The woman answered, “Do you know who I am? I’m the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister.”

If you want to get something, or get somewhere, it pays to have a guide!

**Big Idea: Jesus gives us a guide who shows us the steps we need to take.**

**> The Holy Spirit is the Guide.**

John 14:15-18 - “If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.”

Jesus says we must obey Him. How are we guided into how to obey? The Holy Spirit is our GPS!

* **The Holy Spirit is always present with us.**

Jesus is telling His followers He is going away. He won’t be around to guide them anymore. But He is not leaving them without a Guide. This is a new lifestyle they are entering into - they need a guide along the way - Jesus assures them they will have it!

He will always be present. He will literally come alongside them to lead them.

He is still here - still available for us - Here’s all that included here in what He does for us:

* Counsel - we need counsel in so many areas of our lives…
* Strength - Are there times you feel weak?
* Comfort - are there times you need comfort?
* Help - When do you need help? What do you need help with? Help knowing what to do? What to say? What would Jesus do?
* Advice - I need advice - I need guidance - what am I going to do?
* Advocate - when we are accused - when we are mentally, spiritually and emotionally beat up - when we beat ourselves up - the Holy Spirit fights for us!

1st John 2:1 - My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

Jesus pleads our case before the Father in heaven. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate who is right by our side!

He also helps us to pray when we don’t know how to pray or what to say!

Romans 8:26 - And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning that cannot be exposed in words.

Wow! Thank God for this! I need this!

The Holy Spirit is our ally - He is on our side! He is our friend.

The words Jesus uses indicates that He is giving them One who is just like Him - of the same kind - not another kind.

* **The Holy Spirit guides us into what is truth.**

Some people say truth is relative. Jesus said, “I am the truth.”

Truth is only relative as it is related to Jesus. The Holy Spirit guides into truth - the Holy Spirit guides us to Jesus. He helps us to know Jesus.

Accept Jesus - believe in Jesus - Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit so that we can know Jesus better & intimately.

Jesus said that without Him, we can’t have this help from the Holy Spirit. “The world won’t receive Him … doesn’t recognize Him.”

Those who are following Jesus are the ones given this great gift of this Guide! This Guide is always available to us!

**> We must be guided to knowing Jesus.**

John 14:19-20 - Soon the world will no longer see men, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live.

When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

* Jesus is telling them that they will see Him after He dies and rises from the dead. He predicted it! He did it!

They didn’t understand this then. They couldn’t comprehend it. But after it happened, they understood.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit is guiding us and we really don’t understand why He is leading us where He is leading - We have to trust and follow - get to where He wants us to go - then we will understand fully why He took us on the road He did.

* This guidance will take us to a place where we will live beyond death!

“Since I live, you also will live.”

Romans 8:11 - The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

This is power! This is real life!

**> This Guide will lead us to love!**

John 14:21 - Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.

This love is mutual and reciprocal. We love Him and He love us.

When you love Jesus - you show that love by wanting to follow Him - you follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance - He lets you know that His love for you is real and tangible! He never rejects your love!

When we obey Him and love Him, we get to know Him even more.

In marriage, the more time we spend with our spouses, the more we get to know each other - we strive to please each other - the more we please each other the more we love each other - the deeper our love grows.

This is how the Holy Spirit guides us in our relationship with Jesus. He shows us what Jesus wants - we do that - our relationship with Him grows, we love Him more - and our sense of His love for us grows more and more!

**> We are guided into an exclusive relationship through obedience.**

John 14:22-25 - Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal ourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.”

So there was a second disciple named Judas - indicates to me this is a true story, because someone writing a novel wouldn’t confuse things this way …

He asks, “Why are you keeping yourself to us? Why not become a big star to the whole world?”

He is still thinking of a worldly kingdom …

Jesus response: People who love me will do what I say. If they don’t love me, they are not obeying me.

Following the Guide is evidence of our love for Him!

This relationship is not exclusive because He makes it exclusive! He opens the opportunity to everyone to have a relationship with Him - but you must follow the guide. You must know what He wants for your life and do it. This is evidence of our love.

The good thing - what He wants for us is always good for us! We don’t always see it - but we have to get through some of the potholes and get to the destination to see that sometimes!

Jesus says, this is the message from God Himself!

**> The Guide teaches everything!**

John 14:26 - But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

What do you want to learn? He will teach you! This is not exclusive! This is not limiting your major to one subject!

The Holy Spirit - the Guide - teaches ALL truth!

We rely on our own knowledge a lot. Sometimes especially those who have been in the church a long time begin to rely on the knowledge we have learned through the years. Not all bad - but we still have more to learn. We could stand to rely a lot more on the Holy Spirit and a lot less on ourselves, our intelligence, our abilities, our knowledge, someone else’s knowledge.

Stay in a position of continual learning from the Holy Spirit.

**> This leads us to peace.**

John 14:27 - I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

Need peace? Want peace? Follow the Guide.

Follow the Guide - Follow God’s plan for your life - it will lead to peace .

Here’s what He teaches us:

Philippians 4:6-7 - Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Do you really have peace? How does it get any better than this?

So many live in such turmoil, when such amazing peace is available!

We have a Guide! Follow - Obey - Have Peace! What a deal!

**> We are guided to the certainty of Jesus’ return.**

John 14:28 - Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is great than I am.

Sometimes we think, how great would it be if Jesus were actually physically here.

Imagine what it was like for His followers - He was there - then He was gone. I don’t think we understand how hard that was for them

This is why He is promising such a Guide- This is why the Holy Spirit came - and this is why He assured them - the time in which I am going to be gone will be temporary. I am coming back!

For those who are married - do you remember when you are dating and you had to leave each other at the end of the night?

Do you remember when you were first married and one of you had to go on a trip without the other?

It was hard to part - but it just made the coming together that much better!

Oh, how good it is going to be when Jesus comes back!

John 14:29-30 - I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe. I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let’s be going.

Come on! Let’s go! Let’s follow this Guide! He’s going to lead your life into good things!

They got up - they went to the Mount of Olives - soon Jesus would be arrested - they were very confused.

Let’s not live confused. Let’s follow the Guide!

At this time they didn’t have Him yet - Jesus hadn’t left so the Holy Spirit hadn’t come. We have the Holy Spirit with us!

Imagine that you work for a company whose president found it necessary to travel out of the country and spend an extended period of time abroad. So he says to you and the other trusted employees, “Look, I’m going to leave. And while I’m gone, I want you to pay close attention to the business. You manage things while I’m away. I will write you regularly. When I do, I will instruct you in what you should do from now until I return from this trip.” Everyone agrees.

He leaves and stays gone for a couple of years. During that time he writes often, communicating his desires and concerns. finally he returns. He walks up to the front door of the company and immediately discovers everything is in a mess - weeds flourishing in the flower beds, windows broken across the front of the building, the assistant at the front desk dozing, loud music roaring from several offices, two or three people engaged in horseplay in the back room. Instead of making a profit, the business has suffered a great loss. Without hesitation he calls everyone together and with a frown asks, “What happened? Didn’t you get my letters?”

You say, “Oh, yeah, sure. We got all your letters. We’ve even bound them in a book. And some of us have memorized them. In fact, we have ‘letter study’ every Sunday. You know, those were really great letters.” I think the president would then ask, “But what did you do about my instructions?” And, no doubt the employees would respond, “Do? Well nothing. But we read every one!”

Will you commit yourself to following the Guide?

Opening yourself up to the Holy Spirit?

Getting to know the Word more - obeying it more - no longer how long you have been following Jesus?