

KNOWING WHERE WE ARE GOING

This past weekend my daughter's basketball team played games on Saturday and Sunday at the Meridian Center in Pelham. We had never played at this venue in my previous years coaching basketball, so I needed to look up the directions ahead of time. Since Pelham is near St. Catharines where I went to university, I knew most of the route but I needed to jot down on paper the turnoffs I would need to take after passing the university. My wife also put the venue's address into our GPS in case we were diverted by accidents, or my notes were not accurate.

As we drove to Pelham on Saturday, it was slow going in portions due to the snow that had fallen the night before. I had to use my windshield wiper fluid quite a bit just to see. About halfway there my wife lost the GPS signal on her phone. Naturally there was some anxiousness on our part knowing we were now relying only on my written directions in order to get there. Added to our anxiety now that the GPS was not working, was not knowing for sure how much longer it would take for us to arrive. Thankfully the directions I had written down were accurate and we arrived at the venue about 40 minutes before the game started.

On Sunday morning Nadine asked me if I needed her to put the directions into the GPS once again, but I did not need them because I knew exactly where I was going this time. As I drove to Pelham on Sunday morning, I was very conscious of the difference with respect to my emotions from the day before. Because I knew exactly where I was going this time, I found myself so much more relaxed and I experienced no feelings of anxiousness at all. In fact on Sunday, we arrived in Pelham early enough that I was able to stop at a nearby Tim Hortons to get my favorite coffee before the game. Time did not allow me to make this stop on Saturday because of worrying whether we would arrive at the venue on time.

My travels over the weekend reminded me how we experience very different emotions when we know where we are going as opposed to when we do not. This got me thinking how Jesus wanted to assure us both emotionally and spiritually by sharing with us the directions to heaven so that we can be there with Him one day. He shared these directions in **John 14:1-4**:

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.

Right from the start Jesus wanted to put people's hearts at ease that we can trust in these directions He was providing. Jesus promised in these directions:

- **that there is more than enough room when we arrive, and He has prepared a place there for us,**
- **that He will come and take us there when the time is right.**

Despite these assurances Thomas questioned Jesus and replied, "**We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?**" Jesus responded with these further directions:

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know Him and have seen him!" (John 14:6-7)

Jesus was making it very clear here that He alone is the way that leads us to the Father, and because He is full of truth we can rely on Him to fulfill this promise. He went one step further to share how being the life, He joins His divine life to ours both now and eternally. He shared all of this information so we can be more at peace each day assured that by believing in Him, we are heading in the right direction to experience eternal life. Let's make sure we apply His directions and reassurances **to our everyday lives** so that we can relieve ourselves of any unnecessary worries in this regard.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean