

# Walk In God's Path

Homebuilders

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# What Do You Know??

(1 Cor 8:2)

# What Do You Know?

- *Reminder:*
- With the Bible, every day is the Day of Pentecost (speaks to us in our own language)
- None of us can understand the complete picture, but God may give each of us a few of the pieces of the jigsaw and only by working together we can get a bigger picture and better perspective.
- Always look for things you've never noticed before.
- Always assume you will learn something new.
- Always recognize that you could be wrong about something.
- Remember there were two trees in the Garden, the Tree of Life, and the Tree of Knowledge, and we chose the wrong one. Knowledge is useful until we make it our God, or use it to define God in our own image.
- *1 Cor 8:2 If a man thinks he knows something, he doesn't yet know as he ought to know. (These said by Paul, who was a knowledge expert!)*
- *1 Cor 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

<Prayer>

# What Do You Know?

## Fun Questions:

- Who were the three shortest men in the Bible? (I've taken some license here!)
  - Zaccheus : tallest of the three
  - Nehemiah (Knee-high-miah)
  - Bildad the Shuhite (shoe-height) (Job's friend, Job 2:11)
  - \*4<sup>th</sup> identified from class: the man who slept on his watch

More serious questions to follow help remind us we don't have it all figured out, we often don't know what's in the Bible or that some things we think are in there aren't. Stay humble, stay open, receptive.

# What Do You Know?

- *Safe Answer : Others/Most people would say...*
- According to the Bible, is it possible to be guilty of sin through no action or inaction / no fault of your own?
  - Numbers 6:9ff (esp11,12) Samson was a Nazirite (who was often in the presence of dead bodies – he made them that way.)
- Does God condone lying or deception? (Samson lied to Delilah, apparently should have kept lying).
  - Rahab the Harlot. Joshua 2:1ff.
  - Deceiving/Lying Spirit sent by God, I Kings 22:22, 19-23.
  - I Sam 16:1-5, cover story used hiding real purpose to anoint David king.
- Would the Lord condone Israelites marrying Philistines?
  - Samson's first wife. Judges 14:1-4
- Is suicide ever acceptable to God?
  - Samson killed himself (and many othes) with God's help. Judges 16:28-30

# Walk In God's Path

- We are on a journey through the book of Judges, a fascinating book. Definitely Rated R. If you want to limit your kids' exposure to violence, you may want to tell them to watch TV rather than read the Bible. Judges is full of blood and gore, killing, perversion, and some very disturbing stories. (e.g. concubine chopped into 12 pieces and mailed to each tribe of Israel)
- In our study material, the Title of today's lesson is “Walk in God's Path”. The Text is Judges 13.
  - Would you use a passage related to Samson (or his parents) for a lesson about Walking in God's Path??
  - What if any lessons do you see in this passage about that?
  - Mostly off the path? Israelites did evil. Samson follows his own path.

# Walk In God's Path

- *What is God's path?*
  - I suggest that we don't know. Like driving across country at night we can only see a small piece of it, but that is enough.
  - Proverbs 16:9: *~Man plans his ways, but God directs his steps*
  - Proverbs 19:21 *Many are the plans in a person's heart but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails*
  - Pr 20:24 *A person's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand their own way?*
  - Like the wind, we cannot see it, but we can recognize characteristics.
- *What are Characteristics of God's path?*
  - **Light**, Hope, Love, Peace (in the midst of chaos),...
- *What does it take to be on God's path?*
  - Faith, Courage, Commitment, Integrity,...

# Walk In God's Path

- *How do we get on God's path? How can you know that you are on it?*
  - Saul/Paul thought he was on it when persecuting the church.
  - Is God's path about jots and tittles and measurements, or is it about heart/fruit?
  - You don't have to be perfect, you don't have to know His purpose for you, or His plan (Moses, Esther, Joseph, Job spent years without knowing these things); that's God's job.
    - Put your sail up and God will blow you in the right direction
    - Show up. God can work wonders and bless people you don't even know about just with your presence.
    - Bring him what you have - remember the loaves and fishes; God can do more than we can imagine when we give what we have to him.
    - Practice gratitude, praise, encouragement, generosity, listening, pure religion,...



# Walk In God's Path

- Micah 6:6-8 *With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good. **And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.***
- John 6:29 : *The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.*
- What's your take-away? So what? What does this mean to you? How does it matter in your life?