

The Road of Life: Learning to Trust

Matthew 6:25-34

Today we will look at the first lesson of a series about the **Road of Life**. These lessons are designed to help us *make the connection* between our Christian Faith and the daily life we live out there.

Often my mind turns to our assemblies when I think of my Christian Faith. My identity as a believer is wrapped up in my relationships with you—my family members. That isn't bad, but I want my Christian identity to be as involved (*if not more*) in my daily journey on the Road of Life, as it is with my church family.

On a day to day basis, we connect with many different people from different walks of life and many times on a different road in life than ourselves. If our Christian Faith is not apparent in these relationships, that may indicate a disconnect between our faith and the people we come in contact with on a daily basis. One of the reasons for this apparent disconnect is we may lack trust that God knows how to "connect" with our unbelieving family and friends.

Let's read about the "Bike Ride" and see how we can learn to trust.

The "Bike Ride" on the Road of Life

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I had done wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him. But later on, when I met Christ, it seemed as though life was more like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since. When I was in front and had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable—it was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds, it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "*Pedal!*"

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared;" He'd lean back and touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts that I needed—gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again.

He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did—to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received and still our burden was light. I didn't trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, and knows how to fly to shorten scary passages. I'm learning to listen and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful and constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says..."Pedal!"

Author Unknown

The progression of trust in the "Bike Ride" gives us a way to measure where we are on our own Road of Life. Each one of us should be able to relate to one or more of the steps in learning to Trust. Are you still seeing God as an observer/judge who is watching for you to slip up? Have you grown to trust Him as your companion—although you still call the shots? As you can probably see, the Road of Life with Trust as our goal will allow us to receive the gifts we need and open our lives in service to others.

Why do we need God?

The evidence is all around us. When men and women attempt to direct their own path, we have lives relationships that are broken, hearts that are sad, young people in despair—in other words, when we try to build our lives without the Lord's Plumb Line, we end up with crooked walls.

The Plumb Line

The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel..."

Amos 7:7-8

The Plumb Line in Israel was the Law and the LORD's messages delivered through the prophets. The LORD was calling Israel into a Trust relationship. He called them to repent and obey. They didn't Trust Him and were ultimately destroyed by their sin.

I am confident of better things in our case. We have the Plumb Line of the LORD in our Bibles today. Trusting Him by putting the message up to our lives allows us to make corrections and build sound walls. Why do we need God? We want walls and lives that will endure every storm and last for eternity!

Why should we Trust Him?

We should Trust Him because of the evidence of His faithfulness. The knowledge of what He *has* done and what He *has* promised through His Word opens the door to Trust. Let's look at examples from His Word.

His Creation

**The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

**Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.**

**There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.**

**Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

Psalm 19:1-4

His Promises

20...Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

**22 "As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."**

Genesis 8:20-22

His Love

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

28...See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Matthew 6:26, 28-30

What "gifts" do I need?

Are you ever anxious? Do you ever complain about the circumstances in your life? Are you lonely? Do you feel guilty? Do you see where I am going? Your assignment before next Sunday is to read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and Galatians 5:22-23. As you read them, ask yourself if you need any gifts from the Lord.

All the things in this life that hold us back from experiencing true joy in the Lord can be damaging to our Christian Faith. The Lord can take us to people and places where we can have a "burden-lifting" experience. The Lord can calm a troubled soul. The Lord can comfort a grieving soul. The Lord wants to forgive the guilty soul.

Often, the Lord will use our daily journey and the people we meet to grant us the gifts we need. Trusting Him allows us to connect with others. We need open our hearts with the Lord involved as we meet and work with others each day—allowing Him to lead the way!

Developing an attitude of gratefulness is necessary in receiving the gifts we need. Gratefulness completes the gift. We are unable to truly experience the joy of receiving unless we have a grateful heart—like a circle!

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18