

12 May 2019
JESUS OUR GPS
John 10:22-30

Have you ever thought of the Good Shepherd like a GPS? We use a GPS to guide us. It gives directions, and provided we trust it, we follow those directions believing we are going to arrive at our destination.

Jesus is our GPS. Our 'Good Personal Shepherd'. The emphasis being on the word, 'Personal'. The whole image is one of personal involvement. There is a strong link of trust between the sheep and the shepherd. They trust him so when he speaks they act. It's only natural.

If you trust someone you will listen and act on what they say. If you don't trust someone the chances of you listening are small. Even smaller, that you'll act. Trust is a must.

And we know we can trust Jesus. That's one of the central themes of Easter. Jesus showing he is trust worthy. Jesus showing we can trust him with our lives. In a small way that's what we do with a GPS. We trust it with our lives, believing it will get us to where we want to go so we can get on with life.

Jesus invites us to trust him with our lives. In John 10:10 he reveals the destination; "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) The destination is life with Jesus.

When we go the wrong way what do you hear from your GPS? 'Do a u-turn as soon as possible. Do a u-turn as soon as possible. Do a u-turn as soon as possible.' That's repentance, getting back on track.

Is the destination of your life, life with Jesus?

Is the destination of your life a growing personal relationship with Jesus?

Is the destination of your life sharing this wonderful relationship with those people you love and care for? Sharing this relationship with whoever Jesus brings into your life, the life you share with him?

That's our destination, a person. A shared life with the 'Good Shepherd' as he leads us into lush pastures and to the pools of clear water. Our destination isn't the pasture or the water but the shepherd. My destination isn't heaven, but Jesus. Heaven just happens to be his home.

Eternal life isn't my destination. Everyone is going to live on, the big question is will it be with Jesus or not? Will it be with Jesus, at home with him? Or will it be alienated from Jesus, wandering in a world of pain, feeling unloved and unwanted?

Have you noticed that it's the relationships in your life which have the most powerful effect for happiness or sorrow? It is more important who you are sharing the adventure of life with than where you are.

Jesus our GPS leads us into life with God the Father, through the Person of the Son, lived out today with God the Spirit. Jesus always is leading me into a relationship. I'm his disciple. I follow the pattern of his life as I take up my cross and follow him. As I follow the person, in a personal relationship, listening and trusting his voice.

Thank God we have our Good Shepherd who is speaking with us continually. The big question I face is; 'Am I listening?' Jesus is speaking without a shadow of doubt. Am I listening, or barking up the wrong tree?

Thank God that Jesus came so that we could get to know him, so that we could build a close relationship with him, hearing his voice.

One barrier in my life to hearing Jesus' voice is that I never expected to hear it. I went to worship services and listened to the pastor, but I never expected to hear Jesus' voice. I got good moral teaching. I

learnt about the distinction between Law and Gospel. I learnt that we are saved by faith through God's grace and not by works. But for some reason I never really expected to hear Jesus' voice. Thank God Jesus kept talking.

At the end of my life I won't be facing an exam, I'll have a personal encounter with God. A personal encounter with Jesus, the very person I've been seeking to share life with everyday. The very person I've been seeking to listen to so that I might follow him. I'll hear the voice of the 'Good Shepherd' and follow him rejoicing in sharing life with him.

Today I hear Jesus saying to me; Go, in Person, to Seek and Save the lost. That's another GPS from Jesus. Go, don't sit and theologize about everything, 'GO!'

Have you ever noticed that you can't go by staying in the same place?

Go, in person. Our Good Shepherd came in person. He was born in person. He lived in person. He died in person. He rose again in person. Today Jesus, in person, stands before Father, praying for you, seeking Father's blessing on your life that you might grow as Father's loved child whom he delights in.

I know I lose my way when I try to seek the lost by remote control; investing money, or sending someone else. Jesus' call is for me to go in person. To build personal relationships, which involves risk. But Jesus is a great risk taker. He risked his life to find me.

So I hear Jesus' call to seek and save the lost.

Notice that Jesus doesn't talk about bad people and good people, but lost people and found people. People in a living, vibrant, loving relationship with Jesus, listening to him, sharing from the heart with him, – that's found.

My comfort, my security, my ease, my pleasure is the wrong destination. I hear my GPS, repeatedly calling me to go, in person, to seek and save the lost. To go so that they might benefit according to their need at my expense. At my expense, not someone else's. Jesus is calling me to join him in seeking and saving the lost, personally.

So weekly I come to worship giving Jesus my loyalty, giving him my life that we might together go to seek and save the lost. Jesus invites me to risk my life as I share life with him, as together we go as Father has called. My life isn't about my comfort, my security, my ease, my pleasure. Worship reminds me that life is about God, the one who came in Person to Save me, to Save a lost world so that no-one need die. Rather that all might have life with God the Father, in the Person of Jesus the Son, through the Spirit.

Everything else is missing the mark. What's your GPS saying?

Let's pray.

Jesus I want to hear you. Remove everything in my life that stops me hearing you. Jesus may I listen daily for your guiding. I know I can trust you. Jesus you're my destination, the one I want to hear from, the one I want to know; really know. Lead me out with you that together we might Go, in Person, to Seek and save the lost.