

## **MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK**

*Tuesday, October 24, 2017*

# **Mapping Your Journey**

**Definition:** Your WALK with God will take you to some **unexpected places**. God provides direction and insight to help you have a joyful and meaningful journey. Our map for this journey is God's Word. The Holy Spirit is our guide. As we seek to discover God's journey for our lives, we will have many opportunities to step out in faith into the unknown. Sharing this journey with a community of other believers will provide strength and joy along the way.

### **Audio Segment:**

### **Segment Questions:**

- What most struck you about what Louie Giglio shared?
- Look again at the Scripture of John 10: 3-5. What if anything jumps out to you in trying to apply that to Mapping Your Journey?
- Read Romans 12: 2 and Proverbs 3: 5-6 again. What is it that speaks to you in those scriptures?
- Of the final three scriptures at the end of the narrative, what is the one thing that stands out most to you?

### **Action Questions:**

- What is your personal desire regarding Mapping Your Journey with Christ. What do you see as your responsibility in Mapping Your Journey?
- If you know that you are trying to follow God's will, what do you think the scripture means when it says "seek not your own understanding."
  - \*What are the alternatives to seeking your own understanding?
- Is there a personal experience that you might share, where you felt certain that God had conveyed His will for you?
- Do you think there could be a difference between Knowing God's Will; Mapping Your Journey; and Knowing Your Purpose?

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- What do you feel is one important thing that God has revealed to you through this lesson?

## Mapping Our Journey

When we, for the first time, acknowledged Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit took residence within us, and we began a lifetime journey that had a totally new direction. Instead of being controlled by our human, fleshly nature, that was primarily self-centered, we had a new desire birthed in us. It was a desire to be in relationship with God, and to follow His example in putting the interest of others before our own.

As we all know from our personal experience, that journey of being a follower of Christ is not an easy one. Only as we grow closer to Christ do we begin to realize the true extent of our natural self-centeredness. I imagine that we can all attest to how patient, and gracious and merciful God has been in growing us in that understanding, and in continuing to transform us into the man that He has always intended for us to become.

The spiritual journey of our life goes through many seasons, each with their own levels of challenge and growth, and God uses each one to give us new understanding for the journey ahead. Today, let us reflect together on what we have learned, and on what we may yet need to learn, if we want “Map Our Journey” with the Lord.

One challenge that we face is in coming to a true understanding of God’s will for our life. Even when our hearts desire is to be in God’s will, is it possible for us to lose direction, and get off the path that He desires for us? If so, what are the things that might cause that to occur. Perhaps Jesus words in Matthew 22:37-38 can give us understanding there, when He said

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Yet even when seeking to fully love God, we are still challenged to stay close to Him through our life’s journey. God provides us insight to that in John 10 3-5, which says “The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

God knows that we will face many obstacles, even when we desire to follow Him. Romans 12:2 provides us guidance in that regard, by stating: “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person, by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Proverbs 3 5-6 similarly guides us by saying “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do.”

The verse we just read in Romans 12 said that God’s will for you is good and pleasing and perfect. God also realized that if we believe that, it can become difficult to understand the hardship, tragedy and pain that we encounter in life. Again, we must look to scripture to clarify how that is consistent with a journey that is seeking to follow God. James 1 2-4 states: “Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete and need nothing.”

How is it then, that we can be most likely to fulfill our desire to find, and remain in, God’s will for our life? As we try to Map Our Journey, as this lesson title describes, what are some of the other keys to our success? Other scriptures can certainly help us with this. Some of those might be:

**Proverbs 27:17** “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

**Hebrews 10 24-25** “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”

**Hebrews 12 from vs 1 & 2** “...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,...”

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, consider what it really means to know God’s will for your life. Could it be that God **does not really want us** to be trying to Map Our Journey with Him?