

DAY 1 (Week starting Mon 31 Dec 2018)**Read:** *Exodus 13:17-22*

This passage occurs after the Israelites were “allowed” to leave Egypt and their slave masters. And even though they left under the leadership of Moses they were still on an unknown ROAD and trekking into an unknown future.

Once again at the beginning of a New Year we find ourselves facing a ROAD with an unknown future. We may have a good job or be in a stable relationship with a great family, but we are still on the ROAD of life which can be very daunting if we don’t know where we are headed.

Some of us may know where we’re headed; others are simply trying to figure it out. The truth is an ending of one thing is always a beginning of another. And we need guidance to walk this ROAD!

The Israelites were leaving Egypt and beginning a new relationship with God. We read that God directed them the long way around so that they would be safe from the Philistines. We also read that God appeared as a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. God’s voice and direction surrounded them, keeping them from danger and leading them into a new world of freedom. The Israelites didn’t know where they were going, but they didn’t have to: God knows the way.

It is a comforting thought, when you think about it. There is nothing that will happen to us that God doesn’t already know. God already knows the ROAD ahead of us. As we face the future, we need to keep this image in front of us. God is there, showing us the way.

Meditation: *WHAT ROAD AM I ON?***DAY 2****Read:** *Acts 26:9-19*

The Apostle Paul had to appear before the king on trumped up charges brought against him by the Jewish religious leaders. There he tells King Agrippa of him being on a ROAD to persecute those following the teaching of Jesus. Then while on this ROAD he encounters Christ and how his conversion came about.

In his defence of the charges we see Paul begin to point to his own past and say, “This is what I have done wrong.” On the ROAD before his conversion, Paul was doing what he thought was the right thing. He even had authority granted him by the chief priest.

Through our journey in life, we have been on some ROADS that have put us to shame. We have even said and done some things that we only did in the dark. If the truth must be told, we all have done some things that we are ashamed of.

Now before you get down on yourself for your own past, consider Paul: He was one of the most feared men in his time. He despised the church. Paul, by his own admission, was the one that launched the persecution of the church.

But on the ROAD to Damascus he was confronted by God. God only asked why he was doing what he was doing. And then gives him the opportunity to change. Then with the same passion he had for imprisoning and persecuting Christians, he became an ambassador for Christ.

In the same way Christ can take you on a new ROAD.

Prayer: *Lord show me the road You wish me to be on. Amen***DAY 3****Read:** *John 14:1-6*

Jesus made some clear statements introducing Himself to the world and letting us know who He is. Jesus, when about to die, gathers His disciples and tells them of the ROAD He has to travel. He also goes on to say “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me.*” In a sense Jesus is saying He is the ROAD to get to the Father.

You and I can be the travellers on this ROAD. As Jesus offered the way to the disciples, it is offered to you and me as well. And if we accept that He is the Way (ROAD), we have a dependable sense of direction. We can depend on Jesus because He not only is from the Father but says that he is going back there to “*prepare a place for you*” and then He will come back and “*take you to myself so that you will be where I am.*”

Isaiah 35:9 says “*No lion will be there no fierce animal will pass that way.*” So in other words when we are on the ROAD Jesus wants us to be on we will be protected. The only danger of being devoured is if a traveller chooses to leave God’s highway and walk another ROAD.

So then if we find ourselves being misled, find ourselves being tormented by the sin-filled life it can only be our own fault. Isaiah calls the ROAD to heaven “*The ROAD of Holiness.*”

Travelling on this ROAD will help us reach our heavenly destination triumphantly, “*singing and shouting for joy*” [Is. 35:10]

Jesus invites us on the ROAD to the Father.

Meditation: *Is my road smooth and easy to travel on.*

DAY 4**Read:** *Matthew 21:1-11*

This passage tells of another ROAD on which Jesus was. Yes it was the Road to Jerusalem but it can also be described as the ROAD to Jesus' death. Travelling on this ROAD Jesus was on a donkey. The people lined the streets as He came in on it. They were praising and worshipping Jesus on this ROAD. They even lined the ROAD with their clothes and palm branches.

However there are other things to notice on this ROAD. Notice first that it was a ROAD of *humility*. Normally we like to see our hero's enter with a blaze of glory; making a grand entrance. Jesus the King does not come on a stallion but on a borrowed donkey. This reflected the life of Christ which was a life of humility. It is a road that He requires His disciples to travel on.

This road was also a road of *fulfilment*. Notice what verse 4-5 say; *"All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."*

Coming in on the donkey wasn't by chance or luck. It was all part of fulfilling the divine plan of Almighty God. We too must be willing to travel down that road of fulfilment with Jesus. We must be willing to fulfil and follow the will of God for our lives.

Now while the road led Jesus to Jerusalem, and ultimately to His death burial and resurrection, our Jerusalem road will lead us to heaven. We must be willing to travel the road that Jesus travelled in humility and also to fulfil the desire of Jesus that we be where He is.

Meditation: *am I humbly traveling the Jesus Road to fulfill the desire of God?*

DAY 5**Read:** *Luke 24:13-35*

After Jesus' death and resurrection, many folk were still disappointed disillusioned and maybe even saddened by the events that happened. The way he *died* was very traumatic for some. Our story is about how Jesus comes alongside of two story folk who were on the ROAD to Emmaus. They were hurting because of the events a few days earlier.

A few things took place on this ROAD. First we notice that when Jesus joins them they didn't recognise Him. These two travellers were in the presence of Jesus, but were none the wiser. Sometimes on our ROAD God is at work and we don't even know it. But if you were to look back on your life you will recognise times and say, that's what God was doing. But you were unaware of it at the time.

Secondly on the ROAD we hear them say to Jesus *"But we had hoped."* [vs. 21] Their HOPE was that Jesus was the one to lead them against their oppressors. Maybe some of our deepest dreams have turned into nightmares. It could be a marriage shattered, a relationship gone sour, a retrenchment or even death of a loved one. HOPE shattered. But then they get a bible lesson from Jesus on Jesus.

Lastly their eyes were opened as Jesus broke the bread in their home. Have you had any special encounters with him over the broken bread of communion? God does the same today for those who seek Him.

Friend, even though we may be shattered, Jesus can put us back together again. He is always on the ROAD with us.

Meditation: *What shattered dreams do I need to give to Jesus on this ROAD!*

DAY 6**Read:** *Matthew 7:13-14*

I once went to Buenos Aires where I saw the widest ROAD ever. It had eight lanes in one direction it is known as **9 de Julio Avenue**. In Matthew we read that Jesus speaks of a wide and narrow ROAD. The wide ROAD leads to destruction and the narrow to life. Jesus also warns that *"many easily find the wide road that leads to Hell while only a few [find] the narrow road that leads to Life."*

Let us analyse these ROADS... First the BROAD ROAD. This is the dangerous road, this road has many lanes that lead to destruction. One of the lanes is a Foggy Lane. In fact so foggy one cant tell if there is actually a ROAD. People in this lane don't believe in God because they don't want to answer to Him.

Others on this wide road are in the lane where they are blinded by the light. These are folk who are confused by their religion. Religion is man looking for God but God is not lost, man is. Christianity is God looking for man.

In another lane there are construction workers. They believe their works will suffice to get them to heaven. We don't do it Christ has done it all and we must just believe.

In another lane let us say are the drunk-drivers. They enjoy worldly pleasures and don't want to give it up.

THE NARROW ROAD on the other hand is THE ONLY ROAD TO HEAVEN. And Jesus wants to take us on this ROAD. He said *"I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me."*

Meditation: *What ROAD am I on?*