

# Trek Discussion 6

## 'The True Path'

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

This is our final Bible study for Lent. We now enter into Holy Week which includes:

MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00pm Thursday Nambour

GOOD FRIDAY 9.00am Witta and 3.00pm Nambour

EASTER SUNDAY 5.00am Dawn Service somewhere near Witta, 9.00am Nambour, 4.00pm Witta

Begin today's study with prayer and perhaps one of the following questions:

- *What has been your favourite part of this Lent journey together so far?*
- *What are you learning from the Holy Spirit at the moment?*
- *What do you feel God is calling you to next?*

### IS THERE A TRUE PATH FOR EACH PERSON'S LIFE?

Let's start with a crazy discussion that may warp your mind (and may not have a definite answer):

- *Is there a true path for a person's life?*
- *Is there a singular path for your life that you are supposed to walk?*
- *Hint: if your answer is just a simple absolute "yes" or "no" you're not thinking hard enough.*

Look at the six quotes that follow on this page and the next. Which is your favourite and why?

*"The fox knows many paths, the hedgehog only one, but it is enough!" - Old Greek Saying*

*Proverbs 16:11*

*"You make known to me the path of life..."*

*Proverbs 4:25-26*

*"Let your eyes look directly forward and your gaze be straight before you.*

*Ponder the path of your feet then all your ways will be sure."*

*Deuteronomy 5:32-33*

*"You shall be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you..."*

*"I have no idea where I am going.*

*I do not see the road ahead of me.*

*I cannot know for certain where it will end.*

*But I know that you will lead me by the right path though I know nothing about it.*

*Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death.*

*I will not fear for you are ever with me and you never leave me to face my perils alone."*

*- Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968)*

*"Go forth on your path, as it exists only through your walking." - Augustine of Hippo (354-430AD)*

## **HOW IS THE TRUE PATH BE FOUND?**

How can we choose the right path? Saint Augustine (354-430AD) reflected on this issue deeply. He suggested something like "God can actually work with our choices!" (So did Martin Luther). We can choose things. In some details of our life there is not a 'set path' we must follow – we have free will in many things. However, there are some things we are stuck with – the curse of sin and its result which is death. We are stuck with the need for a Saviour. And so we cannot find our true path without a Saviour! What do you think?

Here are seven common ways modern people try to work out their life's path:

1. Subjectivism (What feels good is the true path)
2. Scepticism (There no true path, just random chance)
3. Relativism (Your path is true for you and my path is true for me)
4. Universalism (In the end all paths are the same)
5. Mysticism (The true path can only be found within you)
6. Superstition (The true path is in the stars, your tea leaves, your lines on your palms)
7. Dogmatism (The true path is a set of intellectual ideas or rules)

- *Is it clear what each is? Can you think of examples of each of these?*
- *What are the good things hidden within each approach?*
- *What is wrong with each approach?*
- *Which of these approaches are you most likely to fall into personally?*

# THE TRUE PATH OF JESUS CHRIST

In the Gospels we discover that (unlike us) Jesus had a very clear idea of his path. He knew it. He knew the true path he must take and he committed himself to it. Here are three passages about Christ's path. Reflect quietly on them and then discuss what you hear and see.

*Isaiah 50:4-8 (highlights from a prophecy about Jesus)*

*The Lord God has given me the tongue of wisdom that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word... The Lord God opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me so I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like a flint and I know that I shall not be put to shame.*

*Luke 9:51*

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

*Matthew 20:17-19*

*And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."*

- *So what was Christ's true path?*
- *What must it have been like for him to know and face it?*
- *Can you think of examples of others trying to turn Christ from his path?*
- *Why did Jesus keep to his true path? For whom? How does this make you feel?*

## THE TRUE PATH FOR EACH OF US CANNOT AVOID THE CROSS

Death is almost the only thing that every single human being (Atheist, Buddhist, Christian) shares in common for their future life path. It is one certain thing about our path we can agree on! The cross is the ultimate expression of death – it is the ultimate picture of the fate of the human race. This is our path's end and it is the result of walking away from God. No one can avoid the cross because death comes to us all (Rom 5:12). Following Jesus takes away fear of the cross. We let go of charting our own path. We trust that Christ has been there and will be with us when we come to the end.

- *For some of us, the cross is judgement, for others it is grace. What's the difference?*

# CLOSING WORD AND PRAYER

Finish by reading out loud Christ's call to follow his path to the cross and empty grave...

## **Matthew 16:24-26**

***Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.***

Pray in whatever way suits your group best!  
You might finish with this blessing...

*May God make you an instrument of peace.  
Where there is hatred, may you sow love.  
where there is injury, may you bring healing,  
where there is doubt, may you bring faith.  
where there is despair, may you shine with hope,  
where there is darkness, may you be in the Light,  
where there is sadness, may you bring joy,  
May you not seek comfort, but to give comfort others,  
May you not long to be understood, but to understand.  
May you not yearn to be loved, but know you are loved!  
For in giving you will receive,  
In forgiving you will be forgiven,  
And in dying you will be born,  
To eternal life.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.*