

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES



Pt I: Too Low

Pastor Tom Kang

Ice Breaker: What's something you were incredibly enthusiastic about at first (e.g. a hobby, a job, a gym membership) that either fizzled out or eventually became a real, lasting commitment? What made the difference?

1. The sermon draws a distinction between enthusiasm and commitment: “Enthusiasm is the first date – you show up early, you smell great, you laugh at everything. Commitment is year fifteen – you’re in sweatpants, arguing about the thermostat, and you still choose each other every morning.” Where in your spiritual life have you been running on enthusiasm that hasn’t yet matured into commitment? What would that next step look like?
2. The second encounter hinges on the phrase “first let me.” The sermon called delay “disobedience in slow motion.” But how do we distinguish between genuine, wise waiting on God’s timing and using patience as a cover for avoidance?
3. Jesus told the third person, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” The sermon connected this to Lot’s wife in Genesis 19 and the Israelites longing for Egypt. Read Numbers 11:4–6, where Israel fondly remembers the food of their slavery. Why is it so tempting to romanticize the very things God has freed us from? What “Egypt” do you find yourself looking back at?
4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” All three encounters in today’s passage involve Jesus essentially saying that following Him will cost something – comfort, control, or the past. What is the most significant thing following Jesus has cost you? And looking back, was the trade worth it?
5. Luke intentionally leaves all three encounters unresolved – we never learn what any of them decided. Why do you think Luke does this? Which of the three do you most identify with right now: the Enthusiast (adventure without cost), the Delayer (“not yet”), or the Backward-Glancer (longing for what’s behind)? Be honest.
6. The sermon used Seth Godin’s insight about Icarus: flying too low – weighed down by the moisture of the sea – is actually the greater danger because it feels safe. What is one thing in your life right now that feels safe or reasonable but might actually be weighing you down and keeping you too low?
7. The sermon challenged us to pick one thing to fast from during Lent and replace it with intentional time with Jesus. As a group, share what you’re considering. Then read Psalm 63:1–5 aloud together. How does David’s language of thirst and satisfaction reshape fasting from something we’re losing into something we’re gaining?



This Lent, we challenge you to FAST from anything you depend on more than God so you can grab hold of Jesus more fully. As we begin Journey to Jerusalem, we invite you to move beyond listening and into active participation. Each week, trail markers in the lobby will feature a QR code pointing you toward guided responses that include Scripture, reflection questions, fasting challenges, and prayer walks, drawing you deeper into a lived pilgrimage toward the cross and resurrection. Let’s take this journey together!