

2023



DEAD END

THE SIGNS OF LIFE SERMON SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

How do you know when you're at a dead end? Dead end means there is no way out, you cannot continue like this. Whenever you come to a dead end it is a reality that God is giving you a sign, understanding, or revelation for your life. So you never need to feel trapped by a dead end moment, you just need to have clarity of what it is that God is trying to teach you. Jesus gives us clarity as it relates to how to manage and deal with a *dead end* in this sermon series, "*The Signs of Life.*"

"A dead end can never be a one-way street; you can always turn around and take another road." - Robert Foster Bennett

THIS WILL BE YOUR RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

EXAMPLES OF DEAD ENDS:

- Sodom and Gomorrah were a **dead end of a location and a people.**
- Abraham was a **dead end of a family.**
- Matthew's tax booth was a **dead end of a job.**

SIGNS OF LIFE: DEAD END

During the first five chapters of Mark, Jesus had momentum in His ministry. He ministered abroad with impact and movement:

- **Chapter 1** - Mark 1:34a NIV - and Jesus healed ***many*** who had various diseases.
- **Chapter 2 - Healing the man on a mat:** Mark 2:12b NIV - This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"
- **Chapter 3** - Mark 3:10 NIV - For he had healed ***many***, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.
- **Chapter 4 - Calmed a storm with the disciples:** Mark 4:41 NIV - They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"
- **Chapter 5 - He healed Jarius' daughter:** Mark 5:42b NIV - At this they were completely astonished.

In chapter six Jesus ran into a dead end situation when He went back to those He was called to:

Mark 6:1-6 NIV - [1] Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. [2] When the Sabbath came, **he began to teach in the synagogue**, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? [3] Isn't this the

***carpenter?** Isn't this **Mary's son** and the **brother of** James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't **his sisters** here with us?" **And they took offense at him.** [4] Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own **town**, among his **relatives** and in his own home." [5] He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. [6] He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.*

- Be careful of doing the right thing in the wrong place. You have to evolve out of people's ideas of you.
- Being among your family and friends should not be a place that smothers you, but rather a place that celebrates you.

Recall a time in your life when you felt unappreciated. Who made you feel this way and how did you handle it?

GOD IS NOT GOING TO LET WHAT HE PUT IN YOU GO TO WASTE.

SIGNS OF A DEAD END

UNEXPLAINABLE

*Mark 6:2-3a NIV - [2] When the Sabbath came, **he began to teach in the synagogue**, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?" [3a] Isn't this the **carpenter?***

- There is an unexplainable anointing on your life and people are amazed. God is the source of your difference.
- Stop trying to explain yourself to others and don't allow people to point out your skills to diminish you.
- Don't let people who are offended by you stop you from being you. Put people out of your life that think you're a joke.

Do you allow others to dictate who you are in Christ? If so, why? Who do you believe God has called you to be?

**WHEN PEOPLE CAN'T EXPLAIN YOUR EVOLUTION,
THEY EXPOUND ON YOUR HISTORY.**

UNEXPECTED

*Mark 6:3b-4 NIV - [3b] Isn't this **Mary's son** and the **brother of** James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't **his sisters** here with us?" **And they took offense at him.** [4] Jesus said to*

them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home."

- You may be called to the world, but you can't neglect your house. Your first ministry is your house.
- No one should celebrate you louder than your family. This should be an environment of affirmation.
- People close to you can be the most dishonorable towards you. Honor is a spirit.
- It doesn't take anything from you to honor others. God expects you to honor what He has placed honor on.

Why do you believe our biggest supporters are often from outside of our homes? What is your reaction when your family doesn't support or acknowledge you?

HONOR IS THE CULTURE OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

Romans 12:10 ESV - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- Honor is God's law. Create a culture of honor as a vehicle for God.
- The Ten Commandments teach honor. The first four commandments are to honor God and the remaining six commandments are to honor people.
- Honor is your personal choice to celebrate someone for their distinctive difference.
 - Honor the office that God has placed honor on.
 - Honor leadership.
 - Honor those who have lived longer than you.
- No one will stick around to be dishonored. Don't question your anointing, it's not you.

Who has dishonored you? What was your response? Who have you dishonored and why?

DISAGREEMENT SHOULD NOT RESULT IN DISHONOR.

UNBELIEF

Mark 6:5-6a NIV - [5] He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. [6] He was amazed at their lack of faith (UNBELIEF).

- Unbelief is a dead end. A lack of faith stops miracles from flowing.
- There is nothing that you can do about others' unbelief. Doubt creates a space for God to perform.

- Rejection is redirection.

How do you handle others' unbelief? How do you react when others doubt your anointing?

ANYTIME DISHONOR IS DISPLAYED IT DISRUPTS THE SUPERNATURAL.

- Doubt is a **struggle faced by the believer.**
- Unbelief is the determined **refusal to believe.**
- Unbelief is a **condition of the unbeliever.**
- Unbelief is an **act of the will.** It is a **choice.**
- Unbelief says **"I hear what you are saying and I choose not to believe it. I reject what you are saying altogether."**

What area of your life are you doubting God?

IF YOU HAVE TO KEEP ON EXPLAINING YOURSELF, YOU CAN'T MOVE FORWARD.

THE U-TURN OR THE BACK OUT

Mark 6:6b NIV - Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

- In the same chapter, he fed 5000.
- In the same chapter, he walked on water.
- Same anointing in a different place.
- It's not you, it's the place.

Matthew 10:14 NIV - If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

- Come from among dishonor.
- Honor gives honor.
- Master the moment that you're in. God will promote you to greater things.

Who are you wasting your oil on? What will it take for you to move on?

WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR NEXT YOU CAN'T BE CRYING ABOUT YOUR PAST OR QUESTIONING YOURSELF.

QUESTION

What will you do when you run into a dead end?

DECLARATION

I honor God and I honor people.

PRAYER

Father God, I thank You for creating me to be different. I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I am full of purpose and my anointing is unmatched. I am not what others call me or see me as, but I am the vehicle that Your miracles, signs, and wonders flow through. Thank You for giving me the wisdom and strength to pour into those You have assigned to me. I honor the office that You have given honor to. I honor those that You have called me to honor. My faith will not allow me to sit in a seat of unbelief, but help me in the areas where there may be doubt in Jesus' name, Amen!