

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

April 4 – Jesus the Savior of the World

LUKE 24:13-15 GOD'S WORD

"¹⁵ While they were talking, Jesus approached them and began walking with them."

Getting more steps in your daily routine will enhance your life!

But some steps will actually save your life.

Jesus was no stranger to walking (approximately 3,000 miles in his ministry travel alone).

That's an average of 8,240 steps, or 20 miles per day. The extent of His reach from Jerusalem was 125 – 150 miles north.

According to most scholars Jesus covered around 21,000 miles through his lifetime – including many annual trips from his home in Nazareth to Jerusalem, around 65 miles each way to celebrate the Jewish holidays.

During the three years of His ministry, or 1% of His life, Jesus covered around 15% of His earthly travel.

In that journey Jesus:

- Walked **through cold winters, hot summers, through desert, mountain or sea, in darkness and light,**
- Witnessed **poverty, disease, hunger, sickness, and even death,**

Matthew 15:30 says, *"A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all."*

- **Changed 11 questionable characters** into life-long servants/leaders for the kingdom of God,
- **Fed 10-15,000 people** with little to nothing to go on – TWICE!

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So, it's not how many steps we take, but where those steps take us.

Jesus took many steps to numerous places to demonstrate the grace and glory of God.

Here are a few examples:

His journey demonstrated that,

1. GRACE THROUGH FAITH OFFERS FORGIVENESS OF SIN (Luke 5:17-26)

On a specific occasion Jesus was teaching in a house when friends of a paralyzed man lowered him through the roof down in front of Him. It was too crowded for them to bring him into the building, and they wanted Jesus to heal his legs.

Jesus told the paralytic man that his sins were forgiven!

To prove that “the Son of Man” has the kind of authority to forgive sins, Jesus told the man to get up and go home! “And take your bed with you!”

The man did just that and praise God on his way!

His journey demonstrated that,

2. GRACE THROUGH FAITH RESULTS IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP (Luke 17:11-19)

About 40 miles from Jerusalem, as Jesus was entering a village 10 men with leprosy called for Him “have pity on us!”

Jesus' only instruction was for them to leave and present themselves to the priests.

As they left (this is critical to the point), **they were cleansed.**

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One of them, when he realized what had happened to him “**came back, praising God in a loud voice.**”

Jesus inquired about the whereabouts of the other nine. *“Has no one returned to give praise to God except for this foreigner (a Samaritan)?”*

Jesus told him to get up (from his worshipping posture) and leave because “your faith has made you well.”

His journey demonstrated that,

3. GOD’S POWER AND DELIVERANCE WILL BE OUR SALVATION (John 11:1-45)

Jesus went to Bethany, a town about two miles outside of Jerusalem to visit the grave of Lazarus, a family friend. He loved Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha.

Lazarus’ sister Martha heard that Jesus was almost in their village and she greeted Him just outside the village.

She pointed out that if Jesus would have arrived sooner Lazarus would still be alive.

“Martha...” Jesus said, **“Your brother will rise again!”**

Martha went to get Mary.

When Mary rushed to greet Him, she said the same thing! *“Lord, if you had been here...”*

The reality?

Jesus knew Lazarus was dying and delayed His trip to Bethany for a couple of days so that “God will receive praise” and that Jesus would be acknowledged for who He is, God’s only Son!

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He planned to fulfill his prediction to the disciples that the outcome of Lazarus's death would be to the glory of God, as well as keep his promise to Martha that her brother would rise again.

The resurrection needed to be seen to be believed! (People are kind of like that.)

Jesus called Lazarus' name and he walked right out of that grave!

Jesus ordered Lazarus to be untied (from the burial cloth).

Verse 45, *"Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen."*

All through Jesus life and ministry His mission was to engage people to the Father!

These supernatural acts of love and power drew people to Jesus, revealed his divine nature, opened hearts to the message of salvation, and caused many to glorify God.

They also demonstrated Christ's absolute authority over nature and his limitless compassion.

Altogether, they proved that he was, indeed, the promised Messiah.

But His journey was not complete.

His deeds were not enough!

His love was not yet complete!

His power had yet reached its potential!

Matthew 28:1-6

"Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb."

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² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

The greatest miracle recorded in history, the great demonstration of God’s love for us was finally manifest in Jesus’ power over the only leverage that the enemy has on us.

Death!

“sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

These are some of the recorded steps of Jesus!

Our next steps are the ones that matter!

Walk with Jesus.

Get to know Him.

Develop a relationship with Him for all eternity.