



The Jesus Way: The Way of the Word

We are in a discipleship conversation about following Jesus, who is the Way. In John 14.6, Jesus brings this into focus, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." It is when the Jesus truth is organically joined to the Jesus way do we experience the Jesus life. The way of Jesus was anticipated by 1800 years of men and women who endeavored to live in the ways of God. This week we look to Moses as our guide. Moses reveals to us the way of the Word. His life is transformed by hearing and obeying the God's Words, and in turn, writes and speaks more words in the Scriptures than anyone else. Moses helps us see that God's Word is more than letters on a page, it is the living breath of God, calling us to obedience and transforming our hearts.

In the opening event that catapulted Moses from a shame scarred shepherd in Midian to a leader guiding God's people out of slavery, he is called to respond to the voice of God speaking to him from a burning bush. God calls Moses to lead his people and Moses immediately protests the role, citing his lack of eloquence as a reason for God to look elsewhere for a leader. When Moses presses God for further assurance of his commitment to this deliverance mission, God responds by telling Moses that he should be ready to tell any inquiring parties that "I AM who I AM" has sent him. In these simple words, God is revealing to us a profound spiritual reality. I Am is the present tense, active form of the verb "To Be." As God's name it declares that He is always present. He is unchanging, constant, unending, and sovereign. God is trying to reveal to us that He is with us and giving us the authority in our lives to live in freedom. God is speaking, God is leading us and is always trying to reveal more and more of himself to us.

As we follow the way of the Word we soon realize that God is calling us to lives marked by obedience. Obedience may not be the most popular pathway for life in our current cultural climate but in God's economy it is the way to experience the full measure of His goodness and grace in our lives.

After leading his people out of Egypt Moses receives the law from God. These laws are the Words of God that lead to life and renewal. I personally love the story found in 2 Kings 22-23 that reveals to us the renewing power that can be experienced by reading and obeying the Word of God. God's people had fallen into a time of moral and spiritual decay. The nation was reeling when a young 8 year old King, Josiah came to the throne. Josiah had his heart set on cultural renewal and began the process of trying to lead people back to the ways of God. When he was 26 years old, the priest Hilkiah, brought him a scroll that had been found buried in the rubble of the Temple of Jerusalem. The words of the scroll were read and the king's heart melted. He turned to God, committed himself and humbled himself before the Lord. Josiah began to publicly read the words of the scroll to all of God's people and lead the nation into a season of spiritual renewal. What were the words of the scroll you might ask? Historians tell us it was

likely the book of Deuteronomy! Deuteronomy was Moses' final opus. After leading the people of God across the desert, a 120 year old Moses stood before them on the plains of Moab and delivered what is perhaps his longest sermon in the Bible. His words are recorded in Deuteronomy as he recounts the power of God's salvation and focuses their minds on the beauty of God's Word. The point of this all is that by simply reading, hearing and obeying the Word of God the people of God experienced a profound spiritual renewal. No social media campaigns or stadium worship events. No charismatic personalities or emotive media presentations. Simply the Word of God, read, heard and obeyed, this is the recipe for spiritual renewal.

Moses may be a signpost to the way of the Word but Jesus is the destination. When John was grasping for language to describe Jesus' coming he landed with the sublime words, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The promise of the New Covenant is that God, and His living Word, have come to transform our hearts. In words anticipating Jesus' arrival the prophet Jeremiah tells us that God will write His law on our hearts. What he means is that through our obedience to Him, God will actually transform our hearts so that we become the kind of people who desire the ways of God. Obedience ceases to become grinding effort or a herculean exertion of our will, but rather the overflow of a heart that has been transformed by God. The way of the Word is an invitation to hear from God, to be transformed in His presence and to know the renewing power of a life lived following Him.

Here is a link to Sunday's Message – <https://vimeo.com/362334249>

Discipleship Questions:

- 1) How Does Moses' story speak to you about the "Way of the Word"?
- 2) What changes might God be calling you to make in your thinking and your living to follow Him in the "Way of the Word"? How is God calling you to live in obedience right now? What makes obedience to God difficult for you?
- 3) In what areas of your life do you most need God to transform your desires? What are the promises of God or parts of His Word that you most want to be true of your life?
- 4) How is your life distinct from the lives of those you live and work around? What is one decision I can make today so that my life reflects the Glory of God to those around me?