**ROAD TRIP! Wk 9: A Car Load – Never Go Alone**

**One of the great aspect of the road trip is the company! A trip with friends or family. Nothing like it. I love traveling with my family.**

**What it means to follow Jesus, know his will and live the adventure**

**The darkest days of Israel - 350 yr cycle (7X) turn from God, judgement, repent (turn around), repeat… - Judges tells that story.**

**At the end it wrapped up those 350 yrs with this - Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. This still happens today – when it comes to following God’s will – many take the same route.**

**Today rather than use a primary verse, passage, or book of the bible we are taking a look at a biblical concept – aka. Systematic theology – what does the Bible say about… angels, forgiveness, Jesus return, etc.**

**Today – what the bible says about the importance of taking your spiritual journey together. We are not to go alone.**

**The Lone ranger mask? Lone vigilante…**

**Some things you should never do alone: scuba diving, rock climbing, moving, cut down a tree, cut your hair, play ping pong, play hide & seek, go on a romantic date…. ( Video) Our spiritual journey.... Unfortunately, many try**

**Never confuse a personal relationship w/ a private relationship**

**Our culture is so individualistic that a personal relationship with God (personal and intimate) means an individualist relationship with God (I am doing this alone).**

**False assumption: Many assume that the people who are the closest with God – spend the most time alone with God… prayer, solitude, etc.**

**I’m not dissing prayer, solitude, or time w/God… however issue is something the Bible clearly gives us direction on.**

**NEVER GO ALONE: We are called to be disciples - not monks (explain what a monk is) - How the monks missed it…**

* **True religion isn't found in solitude, it's found in serving others.**

**Faith that please God and he expects is not found in your private time, verse memorization, or worship time… but serving others**

**But - Luke 5:16 Jesus often withdrew to spend time alone to pray… True, but it’s not the essence of his life or ministry. That is not why he came and was not what he did majority of his time… (even Lord’s prayer: “Let us…”)**

**Solitude was the never the main thing or the end purpose of his life!**

**We see it the great commandment - Matthew 22:36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. (this is not the period of his answer) 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (loving God and love / serving others are intertwined – two sides of the same coin)**

**James 1:27 - Religion (service of God) that is (read your bible a lot, pray for hours, meditate) pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, (serving others) and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (living a morally pure life)**

**That is what God expects… get out there and represent Jesus**

**Prayer and solitude is a fueling station – it is not the road trip.**

**Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (This is what God expects – requires… do justice & humbly serve others)**

**Many of you are one side of the coin…**

**This is not to discredit prayer, solitude, or quite times (I encourage them) But the reason we have those is to fulfill Jesus words**

**Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

* **Our assignment is not to isolate – but to infiltrate**

**The great commission is all about this. Go into all the world. Infiltrate don’t isolate – get out there and get in the world (not of it, but in it)**

**Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples (Jesus followers) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**How else can we be a light, an example – be salt (Matt 5:13-16)**

**Salt does no good in the salt shaker – light is not good hidden.**

**1 Peter 2:11** **Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, (this world is not our home – don’t get too comfortable) to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. (live a pure life, many respond to this by isolating self – but…) 12 Live such good lives among the pagans (lit. those who do not know the true God) that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (why would they glorify God when he returns? Because they’re now in the family)**

**We cannot fulfill what God has called us to do if we live in isolation. They are to see our good deeds among them.**

**You will not have impact, without contact - Don’t be a bubble Christian (explain) Get out there and be a light!!! Your pagan job is a mission assignment. Don’t run from non-Christians…**

* **We are not independent contractors, we are inter-dependent parts of the body of Christ.**

**We often think, “God and I are on assignment – he is my boss. I work for him.” The bible does not paint a vigilante picture… individuals with individual assignments… but of a BODY of CHRIST - members together**

**Romans 12:4-5 – parts of one body – We are designed and commanded to work together. Assigned as a team to impact the world together!**

**God does not say, okay Mr. Eye get other there… (illus)**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – we are one body, with unity and diversity. We have different roles to play – but on one mission together in the kingdom!**

**Stop being a spiritual solo vigilante**

**Dependent – unhealthy / Independent – unhealthy / Inter-dependent!**

**59 one another’s: Love one another (John 13:34) Comfort (I Thess 4:18), build up (I Thess 5:11), confess our sins to (James 5:16), pray for (James 5:16), accept (Rom 15:7) teach (Rom 15:14) be compassionate to (Eph 4:32) Submit to (Eph 5:21) Serve (Gal 5:13) Forgive (Eph 4:32) Carry one another's burdens (Gal 6:2) many more. (They only happen when we are together)**

**But, I'm not important... You're more important than you think**

**The word Church = ecclesia – “to gather together” – we are the church together!**

**THE POWER IN NUMBERS: The reality of isolation**

**Or – Why Only An Arrogant Fool Goes It Alone**

* **Some decisions are too difficult to figure out alone**

**Imagine you’re the smartest bible person and have the best prayer life of anyone you know… seems like you would be able to make decisions without any help… but, you still have a problem that we all have. Static on the line – our sin nature (explain – inclined toward selfishness)**

**Romans 7 – even he, an apostle, struggled with this issue…**

**Even if I know a lot of bible and know how to pray – I still have static on the line… my own sinful nature – if I try to do it alone.**

**My hearing issues / TV - what did they say? The problem is in the receiving, not the sending (not the message) that’s how it is with us… we all have a spiritual hearing problem.**

**Sometimes we need to hear it thru people.**

**A few verses:**

**Pro 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.**

**Pro 12:15 The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.**

**Pro 15:12 Mockers resent correction, so they avoid the wise.**

**Should you backpack alone, rock climb alone, deep sea swim – no. Do people do it, yes (movies make them heroes). Listen, most of the time… it works… doing something stupid… but when it doesn’t you’re in trouble. Usually it works, but the mistakes are usually big - therefore**

* **Some TRIALS are too HARD to bear alone**

**There are some things – you can’t do alone. Burdens get lighter and obstacles get smaller when friends are near**

**(This verse seems on the surface to contradict itself) Galatians 6:2** **Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. (don’t think you are too important to help someone – you’re not) 4 Each one should test (examine) their own actions. (their own responsibilities) Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load.**

**Carry each other’s -or- Carry your own (???? Which is it?)**

**#1 it means – when you see someone who needs help – help!**

**#2 - Bear your responsibilities faithfully – but don’t do it alone.**

**You can only have one of two things – privacy or you can have help**

**Can’t have both. Either - live a private life – or have help in life.**

**By the time we become an adult we stop asking for help. We ask prayer for our co-worker who has cancer. But don’t mention the lump we found. We hold back. We pray for a lost cat – not our cat scan. Until we get the bad report and are struggling... If you live a world where everyone gets, “I’m fine” from you? You are not healthy. (LIFE TEAMS)**

**Even Jesus – in his humanity asked for help - Matthew 26:36 Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Matthew 18:20)**

* **Some TEMPTATIONS are too strong to RESIST alone**

**2 categories of temptation: (more next week - preview)**

* **Fleshly (desires from within) diff for each of us (like fish lures)**

**When we see them - we are to run from them…**

* **Emotional (discouragement insecurity) common to many of us**

**When we experience them – we are to stand firm…**

**You will do better at running from fleshly temptations and digging in when you have emotional temptations when you walk with another.**

**Hebrews 10:24** **And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**Isolated Christianity is disobedience and stupid. Some temptations we only walk away from when we walk away with another.**

**James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (explain – confession and healing) - John 3:19-21**

**Glass house living: A few people in your life you are transparent with. You live with more accountability knowing you are watched than if you are alone. Something powerful happens – when others are so close that they pray for you before you ask because they sense something is wrong. Those who can hold your hands up – when you can’t.**

**Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.**

**Pro 18:24 - A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (443 on myspace vs real friends)**

**THREE THINGS WE ALL NEED FOR THE ROAD TRIP OF LIFE**

**This is where the church – the family of God – should shine!**

**The local church is God's greenhouse to grow and mature us**

1. **Genuinely KNOWN**

**The cry of every heart - (Gen 2:18) designed to be in relationship**

**The real me is known, not the façade. Beyond the, “I’m fine.”**

1. **Lovingly SUPPORTED**

**Not just a “I’ll prayer for you” – but a real prayer and to come on over help me with a problem. More than words – actions.**

1. **Honestly CHALLENGED**

**Where people have the permission to speak into my life and at times say the hard things I need to hear.**

**If we journey through life that way – not only will we have a great adventure to enjoy – but a great story to tell and others to enjoy it with. Never, never, never – ride thru life alone.**