Two Roads Lesson 1: Crossroads

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13-14

The Road Less Traveled

By Robert Frost

 Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

 And sorry I could not travel both

 And be one travelor, long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,

And having perhaps the better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there

Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay

In leaves no step had trodden black.

Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way,

I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence;

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

Life is difficult. It is replete with choices. Some are easy. Some are hard. They all come with consequences. But none of the choices we make are more important than choosing the right road to travel during our lifetime.

Don’t you wish we had someone to tell us which way to go, which choice to make? Believe it or not, we do have someone who will always steer us in the right direction. After Jesus’ resurrection when He was ready to ascend to heaven, He told His followers He was sending them another counselor, the Spirit of Truth, to live with them and be in them. And that they were to wait for Him before they went out to teach about Him. He was talking about the Holy Spirit who each person receives when he commits his life to Jesus and God.

As Jesus told the apostles to wait on the Holy Spirit before they went out, so we should also wait on the Spirit to guide us in our choice of which road to choose. One of the way He guides is through the Word. When God was leading the children of Israel into the promised land, He told them they were to follow the priests carrying the ark of the covenant which contained the commandments of God—so “they would know which way to go because they had never been that way before.” (Joshua 3:4) We too, like the Israelites, have never lived this life before. The Israelites had the commandments of God going before them in the ark of the covenant. We have God’s Word stored in our hearts so that the Spirit can reveal to us what we need to know when we are making any decision about the path we are taking.

Sometimes we make the wrong choice and get off track--like the Israelites did. But mistakes are not fatal. God told the Israelites to “set up road signs, put up guideposts, take note of the highway, the road that you take” so when they wanted to return to the path God had for them, God could bring them back. (Jer. 31:21) We can do the same. In His most famous sermon, the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5-7, Jesus tells His listeners what these road signs and guideposts are: they are the way to blessedness; they are the way to humility, meekness, and purity; they are the way to peace and mercy; they lead us to develop a hunger and thirst for righteousness; they lead us to mourn and to withstand persecution for our beliefs.

As we hide God’s Word in our hearts and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us, He will bring the Word to our minds when we need it, to show us the way to go.

The road we choose will make all the difference in our lives. We need to choose the road less traveled—the road that is narrow with a small gate. Jesus says few find this road. But He lays out the way for us to find the blessedness of right choices and right living. Hide the map He proposes in your heart, and it will lead you to the ancient path, the good way, where you will find rest for your soul.