

# **Sermon**

## **June 6, 2010**

### **The Father's Path**

**John 5:1-19-23**

**Summary: The New Path that God has for us is the Father's Path. Jesus followed it and so can you!**

## **I. New Paths: Resistance**

### ***A. New Paths can cause quite a stir!***

- 1. Did you ever make some small change to your routine and discover that it had a larger-than-life impact on those around you?**
- 2. How about one new vegetable on the table for dinner?**
  - a) “Yuk! What’s THAT? Are you trying to poison us?”**
  - b) “Just try it. You might like it. Besides, it’s good for you.”**
  - c) “Gross. I already know I don’t like it. It makes me sick just to smell it.”**
- 3. The new path that you have discovered can become quite a threat to those around you!**

### ***B. Breakin’ the rules***

**1. This is exactly what happened to the man that Jesus healed at the Pool of Bethesda:**

**a) John 5:9b NIV The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,**

**b) John 5:10 NIV and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”**

**2. The man tried to explain that he had been shown a new path – one that had brought him a whole new life:**

**a) John 5:11 NIV But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, “Pick up your mat and walk.**

**b) This New Path had done something for him that 38 years of trying to keep the rules had not.**

**3. No matter; the fight was on between the Old Path and the New Path:**

**a) John 5:12 NIV So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”**

**b) NOTE: They had no interest in the miracle of healing; all they wanted to do was find the person who DARED to offer a New Path.**

### ***C. Resistance***

**1. One thing you can be absolutely sure of when you set out on the New Path that God gives you is that there will be push-back.**

**2. We share our mental Paths with those we love and live with.**

**a) We get used to the same foods.**

**b) We watch the same television shows and movies.**

**c) We develop similar ways of seeing the world.**

d) Eventually, we assume that those who are close to us think just like we do.

3. I well remember the afternoon when Suzanne walked into our house after having been newly filled with the Holy Spirit:

a) After years of seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord, here she was glowing with God's love.

b) Not only that, but it was clear that she had received the gift of speaking in a heavenly language from the Holy Spirit.

c) Her new experience was diametrically opposed to the lifetime of mental pathways about the Holy Spirit, church, the Bible and theology that I had learned and relied upon.

d) I knew right away that I would have to change!

## II. New Paths: Revelation

### *A. God shows us the New Path*

1. The radical thing about being a follower of Jesus is that God reveals New Paths to us.

a) Proverbs 4:11 NIV I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.

b) Proverbs 4:12 NIV When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.

2. He helps us make new connections in our minds so that we can see the New Path.

a) We would never discover these new ways of thinking and feeling if He did not reveal them to us.

b) Think about the sick man that Jesus healed: he was so obsessed with his problems that he couldn't even THINK about actually being well.

c) **But God came to him and revealed a whole new way of thinking – one that led to a whole new life.**

**3. The same is true for you and me: New Paths come from the Holy Spirit:**

a) **Romans 8:6 NIV The mind of sinful man [read: Old Paths] is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit [read: New Paths] is life and peace.**

### ***B. Jesus followed the Father's Path***

**1. In fact, even the miracle that Jesus performed at the Pool of Bethesda was a result of following the Father's Path.**

**2. When Jesus' opponents asked Him why He dared to break the rules by healing on the Sabbath, Jesus gave this answer:**

a) **John 5:19 NIV "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.**

b) **John 5:20 NIV "For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these."**

**3. Jesus' entire life was one that was lived in the New Path revealed to Him by His Father through the Holy Spirit.**

a) **He didn't arrive on earth with a pre-programmed agenda.**

b) **He chose to let the Father show him the path – even if the path took turns that those around Him could not accept or understand.**

### ***C. The Father's Path***

**1. You will never figure out the New Path that God has for you on your own.**

a) It's not some sort of cosmic puzzle that you will put together if try hard enough or live long enough.

b) It isn't something that only comes to those with enough brain power or self-discipline.

2. An amazing thing happened for me when I stopped trying to "figure out" the Holy Spirit and simply invited Him to show me the Father's Path:

a) All of a sudden, Jesus became a Real Person in my life, not just an historical figure or a God to be believed in.

b) Everything that I knew about God got re-arranged, reconnected in a transformative way.

c) Jesus came to life inside me as I had never known Him before.

d) I had discovered a whole New Path.

3. The Father has a New Path for you – if you will ask Him for it.

### **III. New Paths: Reward**

#### ***A. Reward Pathways***

1. What's the difference between a good path and a bad one?

a) Did you ever take one of those "shortcuts" recommended by your GPS, only to find out that it's a road to nowhere?

b) Every winter I meet at least someone at Smuggs who was told by their GPS to take Route 108 through the notch to get to the resort. Ha, ha, ha.

2. Good paths take you to your destination safe and sound – with no "Road Closed" surprises!

3. So what is the great reward for following God's Path?

## ***B. The Reward of Life***

**1. Jesus spells out the result of following the Father's Path in His answer to His critics after healing a person on the Sabbath:**

**a) John 5:21 NIV "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.**

**b) John 5:22 NIV "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son...."**

**2. Jesus is saying that the Father's Path brings new Life – God's Eternal Life – right into our circumstances:**

**a) John 5:24 NIV "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."**

**3. The Father's Path for you is one that:**

**a) Brings SOLUTIONS instead of problems.**

**b) Brings POSITIVE outcomes instead of negative ones.**

**c) Brings FORGIVENESS instead of bitterness.**

**d) Brings LOVE instead of hate.**

**e) Brings COURAGE instead of fear.**

## ***C. The Reward of Rightness***

**1. The second great reward is that the Father's Path keeps us out of trouble.**

**a) Good highways not only provide a smooth, clearly marked surface on which to travel.**

**b) They also have guard rails to keep us from going off the road in dangerous places.**

**2. The same is true of the Father's Path:**

**a) The Holy Spirit comes to not only give us the insight to see the New Path, but to warn us when we begin to stray from it.**

**b) John 5:22 NIV Moreover, the Father has entrusted all judgment to the Son,"**

**3. Remember how Jesus taught us to pray:**

**a) Matthew 6:13 NIV "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."**

***D. Finding the Father's Path***

**1. You always know when you are on an Interstate, no matter how far from home:**

**a) Every interstate highway has the same kind of sign; only the number on the sign is different.**

**2. The same is true with the Father's Path for you:**

**a) On the one hand it is as personal and unique as you are.**

**b) But it will have the same signs as those we see in the path that Jesus followed.**

**c) It will ALWAYS point to Life – the "over-the-top" Life that Jesus promises you and me.**

**3. So are you ready to find the Father's Path?**

**a) That is YOUR own adventure.**

**b) It's waiting for you.**

**c) He's waiting for you.**

**d) He's ready when you are.**

**e) Just find Him.**