

# LOSING THE WAY

by Kim Josephson

**In John 14:6, Jesus said  
“I am the way, the truth,  
and the life: no man  
cometh unto the Father,  
but by me.”**

In our generation, these words have become almost meaningless. Many know them by heart, but most never realize their significance. It is much easier to use this scripture as a proof text rather than to apply it to our lives, and as a consequence we are losing the way.

When Jesus appeared on the scene, the Jewish people were quite satisfied with their religion. Rightly so, for they had the Law, the Prophets, and even the Temple. They were convinced that theirs was the right religion and that they were on the right track, **but they were wrong!** They had lost the way and though they had scripture and verse for nearly everything they did, they were so far from the Truth, that when He appeared right in front of them, they didn't even recognize Him. In fact, **they crucified Him!**

How could this be? When we look at this as believers, it is incomprehensible. Was there ever a man like Jesus? Was there ever one who healed the sick, cast out devils, restored sight to the blind, fed the multitudes and even raised the dead? His very words were Spirit and Life and yet they missed Him. They heard, but they didn't hear. They saw but they didn't see. Can you imagine, because they had made the scriptures say a thousand things they didn't say, God in His mercy sent His only begotten Son to show them the way and they missed Him!

They expected a Messiah King. They expected a conquering hero. They expected anything but Jesus, and they missed the Way. It's hard to fathom how they could have done it, but they did, and **we are in danger of doing the very same thing!**

We too, are ready for anything but the Jesus of the Bible. We too, are completely convinced that our way is the right way. We too, are long on allegiance to our denomination or local fellowship and are often so busy defending it that we lose sight of what Jesus is all about. We say that we are following Christ even when our actions are in direct conflict to His life and teaching!

1 John 2:6 says: *“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”* What does it mean to walk like Jesus walked? Well, to walk like Jesus would reorder all our priorities. Jesus said His very meat was to do the will of the Father. He spent hours in concentrated prayer seeking the

express will of Him that sent Him. We can go weeks without even an hour of concentrated prayer and yet we flatter ourselves pretending to believe we're walking like Jesus. Have mercy!

What if we learned to talk like Jesus? What He heard the Father say, that's what He said. Unfortunately, rather than waiting to hear the Father, many "Christians" can't wait for a word from God so they just get their words off the telephone. News from heaven isn't near as juicy as the information network of the local gossips. Again, God have mercy.

What if we imitated the Master? He said, He came to be a servant. In our day, servanthood is definitely out. We

need a badge to wear and an office and a title, oh, and don't forget the acknowledgment from the pulpit to turn "King's Kids" into "servants". What nonsense!

Do we know anything of the love that identifies with sinners? Do we know anything of a heart that beats for those less fortunate than ourselves - of the love that warns the wicked of the wrath to come - or that intercedes for the specific needs of the people around us?

No Church, I'm afraid we're too busy trying to capture the "American Dream" to be very much like Jesus. In fact, I'm afraid that **we are so earthly minded that we are no heavenly good!**

We come to church looking to be pumped up and encouraged. We don't want to hear about our responsibilities, we want to hear about our privileges. Jesus spoke more about hell than anyone in the Bible but we don't want to hear about it **at all!** "Why Bro. Kim it's so depressing and negative. We want a positive word." Can you imagine? Is that what you'd say to Jesus?

No Church, if you could have heard His heart break as He cried out His warnings, if you could have seen His tears as He wept over those who rejected Him to their own destruction, if you could have seen Him die on that old rugged cross to pay the price for our sins, I'm sure you'd have a different attitude toward Jesus' main work - **evangelism**. In fact, I'm sure

**Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

**II Cor. 7:1**

that you'd begin to feel His heartbeat for the lost and you would begin to share His burden and even as Paul said, begin to fill up the sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Col 1:24)

In our day, His Words are replaced by theories and concoctions of scriptures taken out of context to make the Bible say whatever we want it to, and consequently **we are losing the way!** It seems that in the last thirty years we have lost the concept of taking up your cross and following Jesus. We don't hear much about the crucified life or about being a servant or about most of the things that Jesus spoke about in the New Testament.

No, in our day, the gospel has been reduced to the good news about how God wants to make you successful and prosperous. The pitch is essentially that if the "Big Man Upstairs" is on your side, you just can't lose. Of course this feels good to the flesh but it has nothing to do with Jesus' presentation of the gospel.

Jesus promised certain persecution to His followers (John 16:1). Jesus promised hardships, trials, loneliness,

and even death and yet He still commanded men to repent and follow Him.

We, on the other hand, are offered every other thing under the sun by today's false prophets. For the right price (I mean offering), we are promised freedom from debt and a host of other blessings all in the name of Jesus. Can you imagine?! It is the exact opposite of Christ and yet it is preached in His name.

In our day, we are told that our obedience to Christ does not matter. We are told that if we simply say the sinners's prayer, that we are accepted in Jesus no matter how we live afterwards! Can you imagine? Jesus didn't ask a man to say a prayer, but rather commanded men to repent and then take up their cross and follow Him. He offered no salvation for those who committed less than their all to Him. We, for at least a generation, have bought into the lie, that we can cut a deal with God and still make it into the Pearly Gates. Well tell me then, where is the cut-off percentage? Can you get in with a 51% commitment? Jonathan Gainsborough used to sing it facetiously and yet we've come to believe it:

Half to Jesus I surrender  
Half to Him I halfway give  
I will only halfway love Him  
In His presence halfway live  
I surrender half  
I surrender half

It's wicked, blasphemous and all kinds of wrong, but that's exactly what's wrong with the Church today! No wonder we are so powerless. No wonder we are such a laughing-stock in the eyes of the world. No wonder the Church is so filled with hypocrites! **GOD HAVE MERCY!**

Again I say, we have bought into the lie of these modern day false prophets that teach us that “we are all more or less hypocrites and that Jesus really doesn't expect to save His people **from** their sin but with their sin.” If that is true then there is no overcoming life and no victory in Jesus. If it is true, then death is not an enemy but a savior because finally at death we'll leave our sins behind. It's **monstrous!** Though this blasphemy contradicts Christ and all the apostles it passes for Christ in our generation. God have Mercy!

O Church, can't you see that this mixture is the reason for the absolute powerlessness of the Church today? Can't you see that there is no way for God to attend these compromising attitudes and doctrines with His miracle working power? As long as we are willing to

run to and fro looking for the next thrill show in the Church **we will never know God!**

Listen, it is time for us to purify our hearts by faith (Acts 15:7) and to get real with God. It is time for us to get **in THE WAY!** It is time for us to get into Jesus, to die to ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him. It is time for us to dedicate ourselves to the things that Jesus dedicated Himself to. It is time for us as Paul said in II Cor 7:1, “*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*”

O Church, I know these words are so very different than what you're used to hearing, but that is the point. So many today who claim to be speaking for Jesus are either deceived themselves or just **out and**

**out liars!** There's no way around it. We simply have to get back to Jesus Himself. We have to take Him at His Word and do what He said!

And finally, we have to examine all that is preached in His name, **in the light of His life.** Honestly, if we'll just look at what Jesus did and how He lived, it will expose all that is contrary to Him. We don't have to stumble along unsure and tossed to and fro by various winds of doctrine. But to be **in the Way,** we'll have to be **in Him,** doing it and living it His way. Hear me, there is no other way to the Father, with all my heart **I beg you to get in.**



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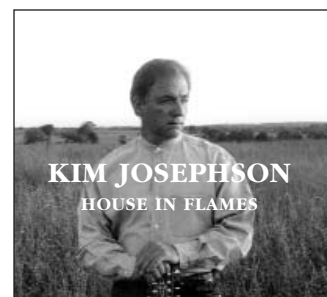
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