

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. How far would you go for things you love? Some have crossed the ocean.
 - 1. How far would you go to get your favorite food? Tampa, St. Augustine, Mom's house?
 - 2. How far would you go to get the best education you could get? Temple Terrace, New York, California?
 - 3. How far would you go to take the finest vacation you could take? Disneyworld, the Grand Canyon, Hawaii?
- B. How far would you go for the faith? How far would you travel; how often; at what expense?
 - 1. How far would you go to learn the Bible that you may not yet have finished reading? Would you finish it this month?
 - 2. How far would you go to share the Gospel with another person? Will you look for someone this afternoon?
- C. How much would you give up for Jesus?
 - 1. How about leaving your home, family, and job all on the same day?
 - 2. How about going back to your beginning and be born into poverty with your family on the run from the law?
 - 3. How about leaving your relationship with the godly people here and spend all of your time with prostitutes, drug addicts, and the homeless?
 - 4. How about permitting people to call you names, lie about you, and throw garbage on you?
 - 5. How about taking the place of a murderer sentenced to death on the gurney and taking his needle in your own arm, and while dying listen to him laugh at you for taking his place?
 - 6. Would you do these things to find Jesus?
- C. Jesus did those things to find us.
 - 1. He left the glory of heaven to come here to save us.
 - 2. He accepted His own birth in a smelly stable to live among us.
 - 3. He shared His Divine perfection with imperfect people like us.
 - 4. He allowed Satan to tempt and attack Him so we would believe He understands us.
 - 5. He preached a message He knew would lead to His death.
 - 6. He allowed people to curse and abuse Him rather than killing them in anger.
 - 7. He died in His enemies' place while they were doing this to Him.
- D. Faithfulness is determined by what one does, not by what he intends.
 - 1. Luke 12:42; 1Cor. 4:2; Matt. 25:21, 23; 2Tim. 4:5-8

I. HOW FAR WILL WE GO TO BE WITH JESUS?

- A. The men opened the roof to get their friend to Jesus - Mark 2:1-5; Luke 5:19
 - 1. As this was impromptu, they would not have brought tools; it would have been no easy task to carry a paralyzed man to a rooftop, remove

sunbaked tiles and cross members, and lower the weight of a man and his bed down to the presence of the Lord.

2. They had a great desire to get to Jesus.

B. Examples

1. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch - Acts 8:26-30

2. Paul endured much to bring the Gospel to his Jewish countrymen.

a. Rom. 9:1-3, 10:1

C. Would you go as far as Philip and Paul? - 1Peter 2:2; 2Peter 1:10

1. Desire to worship - John 4:24 - How often do we miss?

2. Desire for knowledge - 2Tim. 2:15 - Do we attend Bible classes?

3. If we will not go out of our way for these, how far will we go?

II. HOW FAR WILL WE GO TO HAVE OUR SINS FORGIVEN?

A. Mark 2:5-7 - Why did Jesus declare this man's sins forgiven?

1. Because of his faith and the faith of those who brought him - John 6:29

2. How impressed is Jesus with our faith? Have we gone out of our way to be with Him?

3. What if they believed, but just stayed home?

B. Examples

1. Matt. 8:5-13 - The faith of the centurion; he came to Jesus, but knew that it was not necessary for Jesus to come to him.

2. Matt. 9:20-22 - The faith of the woman who was ill; she knew that she would be well if she came to Jesus and merely touched Him.

3. Matt. 15:21-28 - The Canaanite woman came to Jesus even though she knew she was despised by the Jews.

C. Questions

1. Would we oppose our families and friends to have our sins forgiven?

2. Would we ask for a different work schedule in order to prove our commitment to the One Who washed us from our sins?

III. HOW FAR WILL WE GO TO RECEIVE BLESSINGS IN JESUS?

A. Mark 2:8-12 - These men came seeking a physical blessing and received both a spiritual blessing and a physical blessing.

B. Eph. 1:3-8 - All spiritual blessings are in Christ.

1. We are given blessings from heaven - v. 3; What happens in heaven when we obey the Lord on earth?

2. We are given the state of holiness and blamelessness - v. 4

3. We are adopted as children of God - v. 5

4. We are accepted in Christ - v. 6

5. We are given redemption and forgiveness - v. 7

6. We receive wisdom and prudence - v. 8

C. Given the choice between the two, the spiritual blessings are greater and longer lasting.

Conclusion:

A. Perhaps to my own cross? - Matt. 16:24; Gal. 2:20