

## SEEK THE LORD

### If You Get Where You Are Going ... Where Will You Be?

There was a man who boarded a bus with the full intention and desire of going to Detroit. At the end of the long trip and he got off the bus, he found himself not in Detroit but in Kansas City. He had caught the wrong bus.

Something like that happens repeatedly in the human experience. People on the whole desire good things. Basically, we want happiness, maturity and meaning. We want good marriages, productive careers, to be a good parent, to live productive lives. We want to gain the respect of others and be seen as people of faith and integrity. But sometimes we catch the wrong bus and end up in the wrong place.

The man who started out for Detroit, but landed in Kansas City would not believe it at first. He got off the bus and asked for directions to Woodward Avenue. When he was told there was no Woodward Avenue in that city he became indignant. "Now see here," he said, "I know Detroit. I have been here many times and I have been on Woodward Avenue. Don't tell me there is no Woodward Avenue here!" "But sir, this is Kansas City," someone told him. Finally, it dawned on him with a sickening thud that despite the clarity of his desire and his intention ... he had in fact caught the wrong bus and he had ended up in the wrong place.

This is a great parable for life. Think about it for a moment. Jesus told a famous story about the prodigal son. He didn't mean to end up feeding a bunch of pigs. When he asked his father for his inheritance he wanted happiness, fulfillment, excitement, freedom ... but he 'caught the wrong bus'. He wound up in the wrong place as a starving, defeated, feeder of pigs.

I see parents who want so much for their children to have high morals and good values ... but they don't spend much time talking with their kids about right and wrong. They want their children to have good religious training and yet they treat Sunday School lightly and are too lazy to get their kids and themselves to church. I wonder how they can totally ignore their vows at baptism to raise their child in the care of the church?

Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The gate is narrow, the way is hard! Jesus was pointing to the fact that many people want gain without pain, triumph without really trying, something for nothing, and victory without sacrifice. The narrow gate is the way of commitment. The Philosopher Goethe once said, "Everyone wants to be somebody; but nobody wants to grow."

The gate is narrow, but it is wide enough ... and if we are committed to God's way ... then we are going to end up right where we ought to be.

Prayer: Our Lord, open the gate, give us courage to walk in a find the fellowship of walking with you even if it is hard. Amen

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