

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## TAKING THE WRONG TURN

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18TH AUGUST 2020

Recently I went with a friend on a road trip to Romania and back. It's a long and tiresome journey .my friend did the driving and I tried to do the navigating. As I'm here to tell the story, you can guess that it went ok . We got there and back in one piece.

Here's a Fun fact about the German motorway : In places there is no speed limit; you can go as fast as your car can, and as fast as you dare. I have to be honest and tell you that my friend enjoyed those places more than me at times . Driving at high speed in a convertible car can be quite exhilarating. At times though, you know exactly how vulnerable that makes you. On our way back from Romania , a 4x4 trailing a caravan pulled out in the outside lane right in front of us when we were doing more than 100 mil/ hour. My friend slammed the brakes on to avoid collision . It left me feeling very shaken and my friend very angry that someone would do something so thoughtless . After we calmed down , we were both very grateful to God that the worst did not happen.

Going on a long journey takes preparation and most of the time even with lots of preparation , mistakes still happen. On our journey to Romania and back we took the wrong turn a few times Evan with a sat nav on the dash board and an overview map on our phones. Sometimes we were too busy chatting or singing out loud to pay attention to the road but most of the time the reason why we lost the road was because the signs by the side of the road were distracting us and threw us in confusion . What I mean is that we checked the map and the road layout and decided where we needed to be but then a sign would come up and confuse us. When a mistake happened and we were going the wrong way, we both went quiet and our concentration went up; the chatting and the singing would stop until one of us could work out what the mistake was and where we needed to be. Having someone to discuss the route ,the mistakes and the things that came up, was a tremendous help. We could have not done it on our own .

The singing and the chatting would resume , as you can imagine , once we got back on route .

Many people refer to life as a journey; Even more so our Christian walk is compared to a journey . There are highs - when you are on the right path and your favourite song is blasting through the speakers and you are singing from the top of your voice together with your friend ; the roof to your car is down and the sun is shining. And there are lows - when you are not sure where you are going ; you got distracted by the signs beside the road and you are confused and a little lost.

There are many different things we could learn using this imagery. However, what I would like to draw your attention to is the fact that during our life and along our Christian walk , the Lord provides us with companions ; brothers and sisters that are on the same journey as us . These encounters are often used by the Lord to teach us lessons and also to provide safeguards and warnings against distractions by the side of the road .

Let's read Ecclesiastes 4 from 9 to 12.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Solomon asked and got wisdom from the Lord and here he clearly stating that people are better off together that on their own.

You might be wondering what is Solomon talking about in the second part of v12. He talks about two people but then refers to a cord braided in three.. well you haven't missed anything. The third person in this story is the Lord himself. Jesus promises in Mathew 18:20 that "where there are two or three gathered in my name , I will be in their midst "

The Lord himself is accompanying us on our journey. He will never leave us nor forsake us according to Deuteronomy 32:6. Once you decide to walk with Jesus these are his promises to you. He will provide you with companions on the way and He will be there with you. This does not mean that you will have no troubles in this world, this means that whatever comes your way , He is there with you , providing you with strength and wisdom and when you fall over or take the wrong turn , He is there to pick you up and turn you back .

Lord thank you that you see me wherever I might be and that you are with me all the way. Thank you for the obstacles you helped me to overcome and the mistakes I've made which you turned into blessings . Thank you for the friends you provided along the way and the lessons I've learned from them. Thank you for you promised not to live me alone ever .



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