

Coach House Church

BEACONS

ITS YOUR PATH

24TH AUGUST 2020

I've been thinking about 'paths' lately and I haven't been able to get this out of my head. So many of us focus on other people and what they're doing in life, instead of focusing on ourselves and the path God has for us.

This struck me:

When we follow Jesus, we're all following the same person, but we're not all following the same path.

There's such a big temptation for us to focus on everyone else's path instead of our own. When we focus on someone else's path, we start questioning things. Why don't I have that giftedness? Why aren't my parents still married? Can you believe he's dating her? Can you believe she's wearing that?

Bekah and I have recently have been blessed enough to grab a few precious days away up near Workington in the Lake District. We are blessed to have some very close friends, the Bainbridges, who live near there in a small little village called Branthwaite.

These gorgeous people have adopted us as part of their family and have been family for 15+ years now and it really is fantastic spending time with them. On the most recent of trips I said I'd really like to do a walk that had a purpose, I wanted to feel like I conquered something. Most of our walks have been quite casual, and I really wanted to go up a mountain.

So after a few discussions with Big Dave (my 6'5" friend) and his parents, we decided to go up Melbreak mountain. This 1680' mountain (or 262 Big Dave's) stands in isolation even though its close to many of the other fells. So on a rather

windy and potentially damp looking day we drove over to the foot of Melbreak and started our Ascent.

Now imagine this, Our team leader is Big Dave, size 1000 boots, tall, strong, a viking of man, then my prodigious wife, 5'5, size kids feet and very strong willed, and finally me, 6', size 10 feet, a little rotund than I'd like to be. A real smorgasbord of a hiking team. We set of on our hike to conquer and all the time God was talking to me about paths. More often than not, Dave and I would stride over a large stone, but Bekah struggled following us over this path. Our stride was bigger and our reach much bigger than Bekah's. But bigger doesn't always make better. When I was following Bekah, her small boots would be able to squeeze between two rocks, but as I attempted my size 10 in the same gap, they would get stuck, as this was not the right place for my footing. I had to choose a different path. We also would come up to forks in the paths where going one way might add a more time to our already long journey, or even take us away from our goal.

What Bekah, Dave and I had to do on many occasions was to consult the book we had brought with us which had a map, illustrations and guidance for staying on which ever path we chose.

We were all on a journey, we all had the same destination, but each of us had to make our own decisions, to change from following the one in front of us, and divert on our own path. We were all going to get there, to our final destination, but following step by step the person we were looking at was never going to get us there. Our path is ours... no-one else's. If someone is called to be a Youth Leader it doesn't make sense for everyone who knows that person to aspire to be a youth leader, and to follow their journey. We are not Parrots, we are not designed by the creator to squawk the same as the person next to us. God gave us our own hearts and our own mouths, so we can make our own beautiful sounds to Him and our lives are a unique blueprint that are designed just for us.

There's a story in John 21 where Jesus tells us to embrace the path we're on. Don't worry about someone else's path.

"I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me." Peter turned around and saw

behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?” Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” —John 21:18-22

What Jesus is saying to Peter is, look mate don't look at what others are doing, just focus on following me.

Jesus did not come just to forgive you. He didn't come just so you could go to Heaven. He came to redeem you. He came to give you purpose. And He invites us to follow Him. To be obedient to the path he's put us on. So, what's the next right thing to do on your path?

I don't know what the next right thing is for you to do on the path God has put you on. Sometimes I don't even know what the next right thing is for me on my path. But what I do know, if I focus on your path and start to get judgmental and envious of your path, in that moment I'm not living the life that Jesus has for me.

The path God has called you to travel is uniquely for you. Nobody else can walk that path but you. It's a good reminder for me to not worry about your path, but to focus on mine.

Back on our walk should one of us had needed it, another would have helped, stretched out a hand, picked us up, but they could have only done this because they had a firm footing on their own path.

It's Your Path. We are all heading for the same destination, but let's not look at another's path, and want what they have. Let's get into listening to God, asking him for help and using the Bible for our maps, illustrations and guidance.



JAMIE BAKER



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604
the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn