

March 10, 2019

**The Road Less Traveled**

*No Short Cuts*

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Mark 1:9-15

The road less traveled involves...

**A SEASON OF \_\_Preparation\_\_**

Hebrews 5:8

Learn \_Obedience\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_Study\_\_\_\_\_and Learn the Word

Develop a \_\_\_Habit\_\_\_\_\_of prayer

**A SEASON IN THE \_\_\_\_\_Desert\_\_\_\_\_**

Deuteronomy 8:2-6

**A LIFE MOVING \_\_\_\_\_Forward\_\_\_\_\_**

Philippians 3:13

Share a time when you took a short cut and it didn't work out.  
What would have been the outcome if you had stayed on the long course?

There are many short cuts we can take in life. We can cheat on a test or we can study hard and earn a good grade. At work we can let others put the time in and do the hard work needed and then step up and take the credit ourselves for something others have done. There are so many shortcuts available to us.

We are all on a journey of sorts. We can choose to cut the trip short and give up or we can stay on the hard path and come out on the other side triumphant. We can learn a life lesson or cut our spiritual journey short.

Read Deut. 8:2-6 Now that was a real desert experience! Forty years wondering through the wilderness. Obviously there was intent in the desert experience.

What are some of the things that God wants to work out in us through the desert experience?

What do these verses tell about the emphasis God places on these characteristics?

How have you seen these things play out in your life or the lives of others?

What will it take in our lives to embrace the desert experiences?

Read Deuteronomy 2:7

How does this verse help us when we are in the season of spiritual or personal dryness?

Even in the middle of difficulties, we must keep moving ahead.

We are all on a journey towards knowing and loving our Lord more and more. We strive to be more like Him and serve Him. It is very important to stay on this path and not allow others in our lives or circumstances of life to lead us off the straight and narrow path to true life.

Read Philippians 3:10 - 14 ;1 Corinthians 9:24 -27; Hebrews 12:1-2

Why must we keep on moving forward even when life and spiritual growth is difficult?

What prize are we looking for and what kind of race do we need to run? What inhibits us?

What things can keep us from moving forward in our spiritual and personal growth? How do we move past them to victory?

Read Psalm. 119:105; Psalm 19:8 and 2 Timothy 2:15

Why is the Word of God important when we take the long, less traveled road?

What does it mean for 21<sup>st</sup> Century believers to "study" the Word and why is that important?

His word truly lights our path, can think of a time that The word of God changed a path you were on? How does the Word help us in the desert and how does it help us move forward?

Consider a point in your life where you have been trying to take a short cut. How can you commit to walking like Jesus in that area?