



A Sudden Realization

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Idea: You can't follow Jesus and remain lost financially.

Introduction

1. We've all been lost at some point in time.
2. Being lost is different than getting lost.
3. Generally we don't know when we are getting lost.
4. But we know when we are lost...even men are able to come to that conclusion eventually.
5. The interesting thing about getting lost is that it always begins with two things: assurance that we know where we are and confidence that we know how to get where we are going.
6. Several things contribute to getting lost:
 - Inaccurate directions (They wrote left, but meant right.)
 - An unintentional wrong turn on our part (Not paying close attention)
 - Distractions (Hey, what's that over there? Who's that over there?)
7. And there's always that sudden realization: I don't know where I am. I don't know how I got here. I don't know how to get back.
8. And there is this startling reality—you realize you are lost *after* you become lost.

I. You can get lost in just about any arena of life.

- A. Morally: You approached the whole subject of sex with confidence of what was right and wrong. You followed a bad map. You took some shortcuts. You got distracted. Now you are lost. You don't know how you got into the mess you are in . . . the relationships you are in. The guilt won't go away. You wonder if you can ever get back.
- B. Professionally: You chose a major with confidence. Interviewed with high expectations. But you are not where you want to be and you don't know how to get there.
- C. Relationally, academically, spiritually, physically: You look in the mirror and ask, *Where's the stud? The cheerleader? How did I get here? There's so much of me—in the wrong places.*

The strange thing about being lost is . . . we usually speed up. But the best thing a lost person can do is what? Ask for directions.

In every arena of life you can come to the point where you realize—"I don't know exactly where I am. This is not where I intended to be. I don't know how to get back. For the next few weeks, I want to focus on the arena of personal finance."