

# Family TableTalk

Conversation 102

## Show Me The Way

read

Psalm 25:4-5

think

Imagine a world without Siri, Google Maps, and GPS systems to guide you from one place to another. That was the childhood world of just about everyone I know who's over the age of 30. My childhood vacation memories are filled with a repeated routine that still makes me laugh a little bit. We'd load up the car with excitement as we anticipated the trip from our home to our final destination. Dad would handle the driving duties. He had paper maps all

folded up and at the ready in his glove compartment, but he was oftentimes too proud and self-reliant to use them. He would rely on his sense of direction, which many times resulted in us heading off the beaten path and getting lost. My mom would "kindly" suggest that he stop at a gas station and get directions. When he'd swallow his pride and ask for help, we would get back on our way and ultimately wind up where we were supposed to be.

In many ways, our lives are like those family vacations. We follow the paths we think are correct, only to find ourselves lost and needing help. This was certainly the case for David, who earnestly asked God for guidance in Psalm 25. Because he was continually tempted to pursue his own dangerous dead-end plans and paths, David wised up enough to know that he needed God's guidance in order to know right from wrong, and to make good God-glorifying decisions. He knew that the safest place to be as he journeyed through life was under the guiding hand of God.

Look at what David prays in Psalm 24:4-5. He asks God to *make* him know God's ways rather than his own ways. He asks God to *teach* him to recognize and travel the safe paths that lead to life. And finally, he asks God to *lead* him in the truth and way of salvation. And, as he says in verse 5, he is willing to wait patiently for God to answer. Why? Because he knows that if he doesn't wait, he is destined to wander aimlessly and lost.

Unlike David, we have the blessing of living in the wake of Jesus Christ coming to earth to redeem us from our sin while making a way into eternal life. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Unlike David, we have the New Testament to provide us with guidance and direction. But like David, we must earnestly and wholeheartedly ask God to *make, teach, and lead* us each and every day.

apply

- Talk about a time when you were lost and needed help to find your way to your destination? How were you able to get to where you were going?
- What are some habits and practices each of us can develop to focus on learning God's will and way for our lives?
- Has there ever been a time when God's guidance has steered you away from harm, disaster, sin, or foolishness? Describe what it was that God led you out of, along with what God led you into.

pray

Good, loving, and trustworthy Father, we confess that we too often choose to follow our own desires and intuition. We know full well from our experience that doing so gets us lost. Wake us up, we pray, to our foolishness. Create in us a hunger and thirst to know and faithfully follow your will and way. You are the God of our salvation, and we patiently wait for you to work in our lives. Amen.

by Walt Mueller

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