

## **Plain Paths**

*Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. – Psalm 27:11*

Excitement and adventure. This is what many in our modern generation desire life to be a majority if not all of the time – a day-in-and-day-out escape from or avoidance of the dull, the humdrum, and the ordinary. To some degree, it is understandable. Life in a cursed world brings significant amounts of trial and trouble, and the tendency can be to fill the hours with “fun” things in the subliminal hope that nothing bad will happen. Add social media into the mix and our propensity for emulation catapults many into the realm of striving to live a life that looks fulfilling by means of extravagant or diverse experience, but in the end is little more than a quest for a string of events that appear to be extraordinary but deliver no stability or sustainable fulfillment.

Believers should know better. Life with the Lord is indeed exciting and adventuresome, but not usually in any kind of external fashion. In fact, just the opposite is true. It is not the wind, the earthquake, or the fire where our God most frequently manifests His voice and His dealings in our lives, but in the still, small voice of the inner man and in the very undressed occurrences of daily life. There can be and indeed are hilltop experiences and great and mighty works that happen in the service of the Lord, no doubt – even sometimes seasons of the same – but this is not the normal venue of God’s most profound working in our lives. Abraham’s life was that of the mundane existence of a herdsman sprinkled with trials and a but a few significant events. Moses lived forty years on the backside of a desert, culminating in one miraculous call from the burning bush. For the next forty years, while great things were indeed seen and experienced, they were in context of time little more than oases of excitement in the dry and thirsty wanderings in the wilderness. Elijah’s battle with the priests of Baal was a momentary climax of a life hidden away. The life of our Lord Jesus Himself was less than ten percent eventful when we realize that his ministry was but three out of thirty-three years of earthly pilgrimage.

The truth is, while God intends for us to be active for Him, that activity must recognize that His blessing is upon the most usual and customary actions of life and living. It is presenting our ordinary, everyday lives on the altar to Him that He consumes the sacrifice and responds with the fire of fellowship and the opportunity for service and impact. All of this is done in the covert of the plain path of discipleship, where devils often forget to notice.

Let us be mindful that our very ordinary life today is of great interest to our God. He can and will use it to build our faith and stifle the powers of hell when we sincerely ask Him to lead in us a plain path. – *D. Murcek*