

OUTLAWS

MESSAGE NEXT STEPS

ELIJAH / JOHN THE BAPTIST

APRIL 14

Throughout our lives, we will have opportunities to pave roads for others and to have them paved for us. God does the same for us, as He shows us the path He would have for our lives, although we don't always choose His way. Are you ready to allow God to take the wheel and drive you down the paved road?

Work through the following questions and Scriptures on your own, and get together with your running partner, life group, or friends and family to talk through what you are learning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were given the choice of driving a paved road or a dirt road, which one would you prefer? Why?
2. We learned this week that the people of Israel often veered from the path and tried to go their own way. In what areas of your life, if any, do you have trouble listening to God, often attempting to go your own way?
3. **Read Amos 8:11.** God told his people through the prophet Amos that there would be a time of famine of hearing Him. He said this because His people were no longer listening to Him. Have you ever felt that God is silent in your life? Why have you felt this way?
4. **Read Malachi 3:1.** God made a promise to send a messenger to make way for Him to “come to His temple.” Even though God removed His word from the Hebrews for 400 years, He gave them a promise that He would return to them. How does it make you feel to know that God gave and kept His promise to return His word to His people? Why do you feel this way?
5. **Read Matthew 7:13-14.** This passage talks about the “narrow gate” being the way to Jesus. When God fulfilled His promise and sent His messenger to pave the way, He sent the builder of the road to take us through the “narrow gate.” Not only did Jesus pave the way, but He will drive you down the road if you let Him. What does it look like for you to get out of the driver's seat and let Jesus drive you? What steps can you take today to let Him drive you through the “narrow gate”? Spend some time in prayer with God this week, and ask Him to reveal what steps you can take to allow Him to take control of the wheel and take you down the paved road.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Amos 8:11 – “The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.

Malachi 3:1 – “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

Matthew 7:13-14 – “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

DIGGING DEEPER

As you look to dig deeper into the topics of this week’s message, consider checking out the Obey God outcome on Gateway’s Spiritual Growth Path.

Central to Scripture’s teachings is the understanding that our relationship with God is based on grace: “For it is by grace you have been saved...not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).. Paul again addressed boasting when he wrote that he would “never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14). We stand before God, not because we have been good, but because the cross of Christ has brought about needed justification and reconciliation. This teaching, though, is often grossly misunderstood and misapplied. Scripture does not teach that obedience is optional....Authentic followers of Christ come to Christ, because they are fed up with the corruption in this world and in their own lives, and they ache to be free from it. Freedom is not freedom to sin, because we love sin, but freedom from sin, because we hate sin. Grace, in Scripture, is not only described as the gift of God’s forgiveness, but Scripture tells us that “the grace of God has appeared... and teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” (Titus 2:11-12).

To complete the Obey God outcome in its entirety, head to gatewaychurch.com/spiritual_outcomes/obeygod

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