

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

*Direction is more important than speed.
Many are going nowhere fast. —Anon.*

Last week, we wrote about the importance of remembering the four cardinal points of our biblical compass. Today, let's go over some important reminders concerning your compass. *Always trust the compass, which is the Word of God.* The compass will not lie to you. Trust it, even when your instincts or preferences are suggesting a different path. You have a compass for a reason. If you do not trust the compass, it's just taking up space. Your compass is a guidance device that ensures you have the correct heading and that you arrive safely at your destination. Trust the compass.

Consult it frequently. This is a crazy, upside-down, topsy-turvy, goofy and dangerous world, and boundaries, fault lines, mileposts and road conditions are always changing. Consult your moral and biblical compass frequently to make certain you are where you think you are.

Be aware of variations and deviations. Even though you trust your compass and consult it frequently, do not forget the principle of *deviation*. The magnetic north of a compass is not true north. Professional navigators have the means and knowledge to adjust for this difference. We must remember that it is easy to think we're on the right path when, truth is, we're not even headed on a magnetic north heading, let alone true north heading. We have fooled ourselves. We have put false idols, false images and attractive destinations ahead of the righteous path on which we should be traveling. The prophet Jeremiah addresses this: "The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse — who can understand it?" (17:9). The answer comes immediately: "I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings" (17:10).

This brings us to the final note about using our compass: *Always be aware of our True North, Jesus Christ.* He is our True North — north according to the earth's axis, not magnetic north. There is nothing truer than Jesus. If we are following in the shadow of the Son, we need not worry about directional issues. He is leading us home.

—Timothy Merrill

Thank you, God, for giving me a compass, your Word, to guide me through life. Help me to trust it and faithfully turn to it in these troubled times. Amen.

*Wishing you a Blessed Epiphany,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz
Steven, Sara, & Ethan*

Verse to Remember

Happy are those ... [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. —Psalm 1:1-3

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Genesis 37-39
Monday: Genesis 40-42
Tuesday: Genesis 43-46
Wednesday: Genesis 47-50
Thursday: Matthew 1-4
Friday: Matthew 5-7
Saturday: Psalms 1-3

FILL IN THE BLANKS

In Matthew 5 (see the reading above) we have the "Beatitudes," a series of "blessed" statements made by Jesus. Complete the sentence by following the directions. **DIRECTIONS:** Write a word to fit each definition. Then, transfer the letters to the numbered boxes to read one of these Beatitudes.

The color of coal

1
2
8
17
21

Red flower with thorns

9
—
4
3

Woman's garment

7
23
6
5
24

Small, round, green vegetable in a pod

14
10
16

One hikes on this, also known as a trail

—
20
11
12

An electric fish

13
15
—

Very dark green gemstone

18
19
22
—
—
—



Answers:
 black
 rose
 dress
 pea
 path
 eel
 emerald
 Blessed are
 the peace-
 makers.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

