

## SERMON OUTLINE: *Walking the Jesus Way*

John 14:5–14; Luke 9:23; Isaiah 30:21

### I. The Crisis of Our Age: We Have Lost the Way

**Key Idea:** Individualism and consumerism distort Christian identity and destroy the Jesus Way.

- Individualism isolates believers and replaces community with self-focus.
- Consumerism reshapes the church into a marketplace, turning Christians into customers.
- We love Jesus' *truth* and *life*, but often ignore His *way*.
- Jesus does not give us a map—He gives us Himself.

Eugene Peterson, “**We are losing the way of Jesus while trying to do the work of Jesus.**”

**“The Christian life is not simply believing the right things or feeling the right things. It is walking in the way Jesus walked—a way shaped by Scripture, sacrifice, humility, and holy obedience.”**

### II. The Temptation: Wanting Jesus' Life Without Jesus' Way

Eugene Peterson identifies three temptations that distort discipleship:

#### 1. Turning Stones into Bread — The Consumer Temptation/The Lust of the Flesh

The devil wants us to do the same: follow Jesus, but then use Jesus to fulfill needs, first our own and then the needs of all the hungry people around us. It is the temptation to deal with myself and others first and foremost as consumers.

#### 2. Jumping from the Temple — The Entertainment Temptation/The Pride of Life

The devil wants to use Jesus to dazzle the crowds of people on the street below with a miracle, to put a little excitement into their dull lives and use Jesus as some people use drugs and alcohol, sex and fast cars, danger and thrills, television and guns.

#### 3. Ruling the World — The Control Temptation/The Lust of the Eyes

The devil wants to use Jesus to run the world, take charge of the world — “all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.” And he tempts us to use Jesus to run our families, our schools, our neighborhoods, our governments as efficiently and properly as we can, but with no love or forgiveness.

These temptations parallel the original sins in the Beginning and directly parallel the classic triad of temptation: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life;

*Genesis 3:6, “The fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.”*

*1 John 2:16-17, “For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”*

### III. Why did Jesus come to us?

*1 John 3:8, “The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”*

**The meaning of the name of Jesus:** *Matthew 1:21, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

#### **IV. The Ancient Path: Learning the Jesus Way from the Old Testament**

Jesus’ Way is rooted in the Old Testament. Heroes of faith are companions on the Way.

##### **1. Abraham — The Way of Trust and Surrender**

“Abraham climbed Moriah not because he understood God, but because he trusted God.” “A sacrificial life is the means, and the only means, by which a life of faith matures.”

Faith is not knowing where you are going—it is knowing who is leading you. Every believer eventually faces their own Moriah.

##### **2. Moses — The Way of Story**

Scripture shapes us; we inhabit it rather than master it.

##### **3. David — The Way of Honest Prayer**

Holiness is not perfectionism; it is truthful living before God.

##### **4. Elijah — The Way of True Worship**

Authentic worship is presence, not performance.

##### **5. Isaiah — The Way of Holiness and Mission**

Holiness reveals truth and sends us into God’s mission.

#### **V. The Counterfeit Ways: Herod, Caiaphas, Josephus**

- **Herod:** Power and ambition
- **Caiaphas:** Religious safety and institutional control
- **Josephus:** Cultural compromise

These ways are alive in the church today—but they are not the Jesus Way.

#### **VI. The Heart of the Jesus Way: The Cross**

The Jesus Way is the way of: self-giving love/humility/forgiveness/suffering/obedience/ resurrection hope

The cross is not just an event—it is a way we walk.

#### **VII. The Invitation: “This is the way; walk in it.” (Isaiah 30:21)**

Not sprint. Not master. Not perfect.

Walk—one step, one prayer, one act of love, one surrender at a time.

#### **➡ Applications to Life:**

1. What is one concrete step you can take this week to walk the Jesus Way?
2. What distraction or fear is pulling you off the path?
3. Who can walk with you as a companion on the Way?