

ON THE JOURNEY OF LIFE, THE DESTINATION IS WHAT MATTERS!

The most important thing on any journey is reaching the destination. The longer the journey, the more essential it is to stay on the right path. But what happens when we take a wrong turn? This common, sometimes frustrating experience can teach us profound lessons about the choices we make in life.

The Danger of the Wrong Path

Who hasn't taken the wrong direction while trying to get somewhere? Often, what seems like the correct route can lead to delays, frustrations, and even danger. This mistake, while common in physical journeys, also reflects the challenges of the decisions we make throughout life.

Once, during a trip from São Paulo to Porto Alegre, I planned a stop in Itajaí, Santa Catarina, to visit my eldest son. Everything seemed fine until we reached Curitiba. By mistake, I took BR-116, a highway that leads to Porto Alegre but bypasses Itajaí. The result was a detour that cost us more than three hours of trouble.

This situation made me reflect on the choices we make. Sometimes, what seems right can end up being a major mistake. The Bible warns us about this in Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25: *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*

The Illusion of Being on the Right Path

These verses are a call to vigilance. Many times, what appears safe, logical, or comfortable to our eyes can conceal devastating consequences. We are often tempted to take shortcuts or follow what is popular, but these options are not always the best.

Psalm 90:10 reminds us of life's brevity: *"The days of our lives are seventy years, and if because of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."*

Faced with this reality, we must ask ourselves: What comes after this life?

Preparing for Eternal Life

The Bible is clear about eternal destiny. In John 14:6, Jesus says: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

These words leave no room for deviation on the spiritual journey. Jesus is the only way to reconciliation with God and eternal life. This is reinforced in Acts 4:12: *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Just as a bridge is often the only way to cross a river, Jesus is the bridge God provided to connect us to Him. This truth is summarized in John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

The Illusion of Our Efforts

Many times, we want to believe we can attain eternal life through our own merits. But the Bible disproves this idea in Ephesians 2:8-9: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

Salvation is not the result of our efforts or good deeds but a gift from God, the fruit of His grace.

The Illusion of a Second Chance

Another common misconception is believing we'll have another opportunity after death, like the idea of reincarnation. However, the Bible is categorical in Hebrews 9:27: *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."*

There is no "second chance." The decisions we make in this life are definitive for eternity.

An Invitation to Reflection

Taking the wrong path on a trip is inconvenient, but taking the wrong path in life can have eternal consequences. God invites us to choose the right way, the one that leads to life and reconciliation with Him. It's not just about avoiding mistakes but embracing the truth that transforms and gives purpose to our existence.

My intention in sharing this message is not to persuade or pressure but to present humanity's greatest truth: God loves us and has provided a safe path for us to live in communion with Him. This choice lies before you.

The responsibility is ours, and the time is now!

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