



Where Are You?

Read: John 20:19-31

In the fall of 2011 I went to Edmonton with a friend. We ended up taking the wrong exit on a round about and found ourselves lost on the opposite side of the river. In order to get to our destination we had to do three things: 1) figure out where we were; 2) figure out where we were going; 3) devise a plan to get there.

Our spiritual lives are very similar. We have to: 1) figure out where we are (in our relationship with Christ); 2) figure out where we need to be (God calls us to be disciples); 3) devise a plan to get there (create a personal spiritual growth plan). But before we can get to where we want to go, we first have to figure out where we are. Let us look at the path Thomas took, in order to discover the four locations our spiritual journey could be starting from.

Perhaps we are beginning where Thomas started: “Exploring Christ”. We believe in God but aren’t really sure about Jesus. We have doubts and questions that need answering. A lot of people in this category have faith but it isn’t a significant part of their life.

The next location is “Growing in Christ”. Thomas had a conversion experience when he encountered Jesus in a personal way. This is the beginning of our relationship with Christ and we must work on what it means to get to know him, otherwise the spark goes out.

The next step is “Close to Christ”. Thomas was invited into a life of faith. People in this phase of their spiritual journey feel really close to Christ and depend on him daily for guidance.

The last step is “Christ Centered”. Thomas cried out in adoration, “my Lord and my God.” In this location our relationship with Jesus is the most important thing in our life. He guides everything we do.

We are all at different places in our spiritual journey. Our growth depends on our ability to move from one location to another. Thomas could have stayed complacent, yet he moved from one stage to the next. Even though he doubted, he continued to explore and it brought him into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Establishing where we are is the first step to discovering where God is calling us to be and what we need to do in order to get there.

Grow: Where am I in the four locations of spiritual growth?