

Step by Step

Or finding your next step

Let's look at some next steps for people. What about the Israelites, they were taken out of Egypt... or ...taken into the promised land. Have a look at Exodus 13:21 with me.

Exodus 13:21-22 (NIV2011)

²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Here is the thing. They knew the life of Egypt – they were Slaves yet they Knew where they fitted, had homes and food. Uncomfortable but safe.

Then this guy Moses turns up and says lets go to the promised land. MM, The promised land was unknown, foreign, it was different work looking after themselves and depended on a faith in a God they really didn't know that well.

What's their next step?

What about Peter?

Matthew 4:18-20 (NIV2011)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

Pete was a Fisherman – He knew the fishing trade, had the equipment, the boat, the nets, knew what he was doing. Made a good living after all everyone ate fish.

Now, Following Jesus – he didn't know that, didn't know what was next, wasn't equipped.

Israelites “Followed the cloud”

Peter “Followed Jesus”

A guy called John Stickl, in his book Follow the cloud says this “We often believe that Jesus was inviting Peter to follow and he is inviting us to follow because he needs us to do things for him” “But the truth is Jesus invites us to follow him for our good not his.”

We follow Jesus to

- So we can see him
- So we can see him clearly
- He makes our lives happen by showing himself

“Every next step allows us to see a part of him we have never seen before.”

Back to the cloud:- The cloud was their guide. When the cloud moved so did they. “When I move, you move, When I stop you stop, where you go, I go. Follow me and I will make you.”

A couple of questions here:

Do we have a cloud to follow? Yep, the bible, God's word. Follow it.

Are we called to follow? Yes, all of us, every Christian is called by God to follow Jesus.

As different as that may be, as weird as it may be as exciting, as mundane, as whatever – called to follow Jesus.

OK, let's do that. This year let's focus on following Jesus.

Following is one step, one process, one direction and that direction is:-

Just putting one step into front of the other towards God.

More about following Jesus next week.