

## MY WAY?

I am directionally challenged. I have been lost **many** times. I have wandered through the woods and driven in circles in large cities. One of the greatest inventions ever made was the handheld GPS device. When they integrated that technology into the smartphone, my directional weakness was taken away. It was like God had smiled directly upon me.

A few months ago, I had to transport some kids to the orthodontist's office an hour away. As is custom, we stopped at Dairy Queen for a Blizzard (Kids with braces complain that their teeth hurt so they can appeal to a father's softer nature where he is willing to spend outrageous amounts of money on mixed ice cream and candy that can be held upside down). With this detour, I got turned around. As a result, we let Siri pick the route home. I thought it was the way we usually go, but we quickly learned it was not. For the next hour, we toured farmland and twisty roads that led us through places we never knew existed. What seemed like an inconvenience was a joyful ride where we talked, laughed, and enjoyed the beauty of the countryside. You know what? We got home safe and sound in a reasonable amount of time.

Recently, I have been focused on a beautiful and challenging passage in Isaiah. It stays open on my computer so that I read it every time I sit down to work. While there is much to soak up from its hopeful verses, I am convicted most of all by this:

Isaiah 55:6-9

*6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
7 let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.  
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Like you, I want to know the Lord. However, the comfortable journey to that place isn't necessarily the right way. I am humbled to learn that he thinks differently than I do. His route is different than the one I like to take. If I want to truly know him, I have to seek him. I also have to concede my will and strive to know his thoughts and ways. And it is here that Isaiah teaches me the significance of Jesus' words:

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6*

Blessings in your journey!  
Ryan