

The Inward Journey and the “Wall”

The “Wall” of doubt and fear represents _____
meeting _____ face to face.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great city of Ninevah and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.’ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. Jonah 1:1-3

Characteristics of the “Wall”

Peter began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, ‘I don’t know this man you’re talking about.’ Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: ‘Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.’ And he broke down and wept. Mark 14:71,72

Resistance at the “Wall”

Breaking Through the “Wall”

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ‘I have sinned,’ he said, ‘for I have betrayed innocent blood.’ ‘What is that to us?’ they replied. ‘That’s your responsibility.’ Matthew 27:3-4

Group Discussion Questions

Connecting:

1) Have you ever considered doubt and fear to be a natural part of spiritual growth? Why or why not?

Growing:

2) Have you experienced a nagging search for personal meaning? How? When?

3) Has your faith been challenged to the point of seemingly losing it? Describe this time in your life... perhaps you’re there now?

4) Why don’t we usually identify apparent loss of faith or doubt as part of natural spiritual development and GROWTH toward a more mature faith? To help the conversation, discuss the influence parents, church family, spiritual leaders and other surrounding cultural forces have lent to this lack of expression.

5) How would your life be different if you could be healed from your deepest pains?

Applying:

6) Give a past example from your life in which your will collided with God’s will in your life? How did you deal with the situation?

7) Is there one thing you can remember in this study and reflection to use to move beyond the “Wall” of doubt and fear?

Personal Application Ideas

1) Find a spiritual partner who can talk issues of faith, doubt, fear, and accountability with you. Do this under the umbrella of prayer... but be sure to do it!

2) Pick a few of the following Scripture stories of “Wall” experiences and ask that God let it resonate in your life. Write in your journal or on a piece of paper why you resonate with the story and what God may be saying to you through it:

- Jonah while he was in the belly of the fish (Jonah 2: 1-10)
- The woman with the twelve-year illness (Mark 5: 25-34)
- Job in his desperate illness (Job 29 & 30)
- Elijah in his cave experience (1 Kings 19: 1-14)
- Sarah, being barren and offering her maid to Abraham (Genesis 16: 1-2)
- The women, when they first discovered the empty tomb (Luke 23:55 – 24:5)

3) Consider talking with a spiritual advisor or counselor to work through issues of spiritual and psychological healing if you find yourself currently in the “Wall.”

Daily Reading Plan

Monday – Jonah 1 – 2:10; *a battle of personal will vs. God’s will*

Tuesday – Job 29; *great despair in sickness*

Wednesday – Job 30; *continued*

Thursday – Luke 4:1-13; *Jesus’ desert experience*

Friday – Psalm 139; *a praise report of one on the other side of the “Wall”*

- Also during this week: Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28 from “*Purpose-Driven Life*” by Rick Warren
- Memory Verse for Week: Psalm 139: 23, 24
“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Additional Resources

- 1) [The Critical Journey: Stages in the Life of Faith](#), Janet Hagberg and Robert Guelich. *A significant book influencing Sunday’s message and message notes. This book details the stages of faith formation, emphasizing the otherwise forgotten stage of doubt and fear.*
- 2) [In His Image: Reflecting Christ in Everyday Life](#), Michael J. Wilkins. *If you really desire to live like Jesus, then this book is for you. It is a call to authentic discipleship.*
- 3) [Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time](#). Greg Ogden. *Ogden addresses the need for discipleship in the local church and recovers Jesus’ method of accomplishing life change by investing in just a few people at a time. A vision is set forth for transforming both the individual disciple and discipleship itself, showing how discipleship can become a self-replicating process with ongoing impact from generation to generation.*

These and other resources are available at Northwestern Bookstores (www.nwbooks.com), Christian Book Distributors online (www.christianbook.com), or Amazon.com (www.amazon.com)



Doing Life Together

Pastor Sean Kelly Growth - Discipleship
 February 22, 2004 Mark 14:66-72

I Doubt It - Doubt & Faith Crisis in Perspective

Growing and Productive Faith

- Everything has been coming together since I’ve become a Christian. Being successful seems like it goes with being a faithful Christian.
- I love my faith because it is so clear what I am to believe and how I am to act. The Bible answers my questions, and my church has clear teachings that have become the rules for my life.

Interpersonal, Inward Journey and the Faith “Wall”

- I can no longer go on basing my faith on what’s right for others or what feels good. I must find out once and for all what God’s truth is for me in my own life. But how do I go about that?
- This time in my life feels the most desolate imaginable. I am so estranged from God, from my faith from life – I’m not sure even how to proceed. I feel like melting away.

The Other Side of the “Wall”

- I’ve never really known who God was for me before this time. I finally know in my soul what it means to let God be God.
- I am a servant to others because I love them. Whatever is asked of me I will do. God’s love propels me to be there, to be available for others. That’s all there is. That’s life!