

THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE

What is the unique ingredient that separates the ordinary from the extraordinary?

Jesus himself achieved the highest and greatest of goals and has left the greatest impact on the world.

The character of Jesus has not only been the highest pattern of virtue, but the longest incentive in its practice, and has exerted so deep an influence, that it may be truly said that the simple record of three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and to soften mankind than all the disquisitions of philosophers and all the exhortations of moralists.

- WEH Lecky

The path of least resistance: *The most efficient path you can take to reach your intended goal.*

In the plethora of opportunities and pathways in life, how can we know which decisions to make, and which paths to take?

Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT)

13 “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

*The Path of least resistance intentional. It is convinced that there **IS** a path worth taking and a goal **WORTH** achieving.*

When someone uses the path of least resistance, they will always hit their target.

There are 3 aspects of the path of least resistance that Jesus exemplified in his own life and ministry that we can learn from.

IDENTITY

Jesus had a clear sense of His identity and of the father's will and calling in his life, even at a young age.

Luke 2:45-49 (NLT)

⁴⁵ When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. ⁴⁶ Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." ⁴⁹ "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Jesus knew the father so intimately that everything Jesus desired and did on earth was a reflection of His father's will in heaven.

John 5:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.

So as christians, we now place our identity in God. We are no longer sinners, but are now saved. We are no longer dead **BECAUSE** of sin, but now alive and dead **TO** sin.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

***10** For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

When we know our identity, we know who we belong to. And when we belong to someone, we are no longer our own.

I Chronicles 28:2-3

“Then King David rose to his feet and said, “Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.’”

When we submit to God’s will for our lives, we often also must submit to how he wants to reach those goals as well.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (AMP)

26 Therefore I do not run without a definite goal; I do not flail around like one beating the air [just shadow boxing]. 27 But [like a boxer] I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached [the gospel] to others, I myself will not somehow be disqualified [as unfit for service].

What goal has God placed inside of you to achieve and accomplish?

FOCUS

Jesus was a man of focus.

Matthew 4:1-10 (NLT)

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” 7 Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’” 8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “I

will give it all to you,” he said, “if you kneel down and worship me.” 10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

Jesus kept His focus on the word. He did not let anything distract or diminish his view of the scriptures.

Judges 7:5-7 (NLT)

⁵ When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the LORD told him, “Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream.” ⁶ Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. ⁷ The LORD told Gideon, “With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home.”

Don’t do **anything** that would destroy, distract or diminish you accomplishing the goal God has for you.

COMMITMENT

Those who are committed to a goal and who persist are often those who have the power to impact the world in meaningful ways.

Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT)

6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Commitment is integral to our success in any meaningful arena in our life.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessings if we don't give up.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NLT)

12 Fight the good fight for true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

Our commitment to God is not one that gives up at the first sign of difficulty, but one where we persevere and never give up. It is one of persistence, where we do not relent until we accomplish our God given goal.