

Traveling the High Road in 2026

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 The Message)

Jesus wants us to be salt and light. _____ **makes things better and _____ makes things brighter.** We are called to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus modeled this every day of His life on earth by being an example of a leader traveling the High Road.

The _____ Road: People on this road selfishly take more than they give, resulting in making the world dark and cold, not brighter nor better.

The _____ Road: People on this road focus on fairness and often keep score. They may not be aware of it, but they maintain the status quo, and nothing gets better or brighter.

The _____ Road: People on this road follow Jesus' example. They **give** more than they **take**. They serve others out of love. They turn the other cheek instead of taking offence. Their lives reflect the behavior of Jesus. This is what makes the world better and brighter.

THE HIGH ROAD PERSON

Jesus reached out to people whom others dismissed.

People of all kinds sought out Jesus because they felt valued and respected by Him. When we _____ people, give them hope, and place them above our agenda, we become like Jesus!!!

THE ESSENCE OF PUTTING OTHERS FIRST (MATTHEW 5:43-48)

When Jesus came to earth, He challenged everyone to rethink how they interacted with others and called them all to a higher level of living.

High road living requires us to treat others better than they treat us.

"The true leader serves. Serves people. Serves their best interests, and in so doing, will not always be popular, may not always impress. But because true leaders are motivated by loving concern rather than a desire for personal glory, they are willing to pay the price." -John White

What I believed: Serving others is what I should do.

What I discovered: A heart to see value in ALL people.

If we see others as weak, we will try to help them.

If we see others as broken, we will try to fix them

If we see others as valuable, we will serve them.

- Knowing God values someone and serving them for that reason makes serving them a joy.

What I believed: Serving others is seldom noticed.

What I discovered: Serving people becomes an identity.

"There are two types of people in the world: those who come into a room and say, "HERE I AM," and those who come in and say, "AH, THERE YOU ARE!"

-Fredrick L. Collins

- *What does "AH, THERE YOU ARE!" display?* It lets people know that they are important.
- If you do that enough, it becomes your identity.
- Keep serving others, and your actions will be noticed, because the desire to serve is so rare in this world.

What I believed: Serving others is important to people.

What I discovered: Serving others is important to Jesus. Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus cares so much about how we treat others that He takes it personally.

- For I was hungry and you gave me food.
- I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.
- I was a stranger, and you invited me in.
- I was naked, and you gave me clothing.
- I was sick, and you took care of me.
- I was in prison, and you visited me.

How can we get close to Jesus and show Him how much we love Him?

Serve!!!

ANSWER KEY

SALT
LIGHT
LOW
MIDDLE
HIGH
VALUE