

**30 WAYS YOU CAN
WALK WITH JESUS**

T  **DAY**

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Chapter 1

Ask Yourself: What Can I Unlearn Today?

Intelligence is what we learn. Wisdom is what we unlearn. ~ J.R. Rim

Never stop learning! Always be a rookie at something! The older the wiser!

The cliches about learning are almost unending.

We're a society that values learning. And indeed, there's not much substitute for education and life experience. Wisdom brings a certain peace that Jesus desired for all those who walk his Way.

But could it be that our deepest wisdom comes from the things we once believed as true somewhere back on the path, but no longer find true today?

Jesus spoke of this in the way he taught and told stories. He begins with "you have heard it said...", then continues with "but I tell you..." The pattern is repeated in Matthew 5 starting in verse 21. It was not enough for Jesus to give new information. He needed to correct the wrong beliefs that lead people astray.

American pastor and author Mark Batterson says, "Unfortunately, unlearning is twice as hard as learning. It's like missing your exit on the freeway – you have to drive to the next exit and then double back. Every mile you go in the wrong direction is really a two-mile error."

As we study God's truth, we may also have an awareness of certain things not so true. Sometimes they are easily spotted, and other times they're ingrained so deeply that it's not so easy. We need to work toward being Christ-like, while also rejecting the things that are not of God.

What is something you were taught, or once believed, that the Holy Spirit is now suggesting you reconsider?

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ~ Romans 12:2

Chapter 2

Mark a Milestone with Ceremony or a Symbol

...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ~ Psalm 103:12

About two-thirds through their five-hundred mile walk, modern-day pilgrims representing dozens of nationalities encounter a special place on the pilgrimage known as northern Spain's Camino de Santiago.

It's really nothing more than an iron cross atop big pile of rocks, but many consider it holy ground.

For more than a millennia, tradition has encouraged pilgrims on The Way of St. James to carry a small object from their home (most carry a small stone) and as they walk. The object represents the pilgrim's burden, or her sin, or regrets, however they may wish to characterize it. Upon arrival at this special location known as Cruz de Ferro in the Cambrian Mountains, the pilgrim places the object on the hill at the foot of the cross, offers a prayer, and walks away.

The symbolism of marking such a moment in time is a powerful milestone representing the heart of the gospel truth.

Some say that upon our repentance of sin God cannot remember our wrongdoing. The more accurate and amazing truth is not that he can't, but that God *chooses* with a holy intention not to recall the past. Through the power of Jesus' blood shed on a different cross more than two thousand years ago, we need not wallow in the shame and regret of sin.

You may not walk a five-hundred mile pilgrimage, but you can surely mark a moment representing your repentance of sin.

- Write your regrets on a piece of paper, light a match, and watch your past mistakes go up in smoke.

- Construct a simple cross and nail your paper list to the symbol of Christ's crucifixion.

- Next Sunday, leave an object representing your shortcomings at your church altar, say a prayer, and walk away.

Remember, God has a purpose for every person, and His work is too important for us to remain bogged down in the past.

That's why sent Jesus. For your freedom!

Boys, the best thing you can do with death is ride away from it. ~ Capt. Woodrow F.

Call from the movie, Lonesome Dove

Chapter 3

***Put Failure Where it Belongs
(God's Not Disappointed in You)***

The chief job of people who love and follow Jesus is not to persuade people to believe, but to make it so people want to believe. ~ Blaise Pascal

His coach called him the smartest player he'd ever seen. He was team captain at the University of California Berkeley and an All-America standout. But Roy "Wrong Way" Riegels is most widely known for the worst blunder in the history of college football.

After a disorienting missed tackle in the 1929 Rose Bowl, Riegels ran 69 yards in the wrong direction before teammates could tackle him at their own one-yard line, ultimately resulting in a safety for the opposing team. At halftime, a distraught Riegels told his coach he wasn't worthy to play the second half. Coach Nibs Price responded with this: "Roy, get up and go back out there. The game's only half over."

The Golden Bears lost the bowl game, however, and Riegels spent a lifetime as a motivational speaker, sending encouraging notes and letters to athletes who made similar embarrassing mistakes.

If you were sitting quietly by a peaceful stream contemplating your life and lamenting your worst mistakes, then suddenly from nowhere saw Jesus walking toward you, what do you think He would say?

Would he ask why you're so sad? Would he pose with crossed arms shaking his head in disgust? Would he call out your worst sin?

I like to think the chances are good that he'd tell you how awesome you are.

What if all along, the most amazing thing was not our pursuit of Jesus, but rather the fact that He was watching and encouraging us to determine what role we'd play in advancing His kingdom for all eternity?

What if all the time we were searching for Him, He was investigating us?

Our relationship with Jesus is not a friendship in a vacuum, nor is it a one-way street. Jesus loves us with an incredible love, and He is pursuing us every day to share an amazing, eternal adventure.

Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor. ~ Truman Capote