

# God is With Us: Oops, I Think I'm Lost

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Genesis 46: 26-29 (NIV) “All those who went to Egypt with Jacob—those who were his direct descendents, not counting his sons wives- numbered sixty six persons. With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob’s family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all. Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to **get directions** to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen, Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time.”

Listen to the key verse in the text today from Genesis 46: 28: “Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get .....**directions to Goshen.**”

Jacob is the father of 12 sons one of whom is Joseph, the number two man in Egypt. Jacob, the dad of Joseph, sends a son named Judah to find Joseph. Judah, one of Joseph’s brothers is, to **get directions** to Goshen.”

Do you know where Goshen is on the world map? It is in Egypt. The eastern Egyptian delta region. A fertile, viable place today, just as it was several thousand years ago. The move from Israel/ Lebanon/Canaan to Goshen/Egypt was about 275 to 300 miles away. Like from Lubbock to Ft. Davis Texas. That would be a heck of a trek on foot or on a donkey or camel. Most likely on foot.

Jacob, Joseph's Dad, and his clan are living in Canaan about 275 to 300 miles away in what would be modern day Israel and Lebanon. Canaan is both a land of blessing and potential corrupting danger.

(Map of Mediterranean, Israel). Judah navigator scouted out the land.

Number of family members who went to Egypt was 70 in all. In Hebrew numerology, the number 7 is a complete number, a prime number. And any multiple by tens, a complete number, would be considered a complete number.  $7 \times 10 = 70$ .

Ge.46: 28b -29 says, "When they (the traveling group), arrived in the region of Goshen, Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel." Israel also named Jacob, who was named by the Lord God after a night of wrestling with God by the Jabbok River.. Jacob/Israel is given the new name as a sign of blessing by the Lord God. And in this instance Jacob/Israel's new name means "*The one who strives with God.*"

Our Genesis 46 story has starvation and death as a key issue here. Not just hunger. But starvation. There is famine in Canaan and the people are starving. Israel/Jacob's family may have stored up provisions for a while,

but after a while the provisions run out. No food in the larder, the smokehouse is empty. The pantry has a can of sardines in it? For 70 people there is a need for food. So they must travel, and **not get lost** on the way. They must navigate their way to Goshen safely, to avoid death by starvation. Who is the navigator in your car on a family trip? Used to be my Mom in our car trips. For some people it is a GPS system, for other people, they use Google, or RandMcNally.com to get directions to turn here, merge there, and bypass this detour here. Why have a navigator? So we don't get lost. Jacob's clan does not want to get lost. There are various kinds of getting "lost" in scripture.

**Genesis 34:19**, "Schechem lost no time in doing what they said."

**Leviticus 13:40** says, "When a man has lost his hair and is bald, he is clean." Ceremonially for worship is the meaning.

**Numbers 11:6** "But now we have lost our appetite; we can never see anything but this manna." The whining Exodus people complaining about God provided food.

**1 Samuel 4:10** "The slaughter was very great. Israel lost 30,000 foot soldiers." Losing men in battle.

In the New Testament hear what the Gospel of Luke says:

- **Luke 15:6** “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says,”  
**Rejoice with me: I have found my lost sheep!**”
- **Luke 15:9** “And when she finds it, (the lost coin) she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, “**Rejoice with me: I have found my lost coin.**”
- **Luke 15:24** (The lost son) the son returns home and the father exclaims, “For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; **He was lost and is found.**”
- **Luke 19:10** “For the Son of Man came to seek and **save what was lost.**”

How many of you have gotten lost on a highway or strange city somewhere? Men, ask for directions, it’s in the Bible. Maybe you finally had to swallow your pride, or fear, or whatever, and say,” I’m not Magellan, Oops. I’m lost.”

Not to long ago after having moved to Lubbock, I decided that I would drive to the Buddy Holly Museum... Somehow I got sidetracked and wound up east of the interstate near Canyon outside of Lubbock. Don’t ask me how. I stopped and asked for directions at a little grocery store. The lady

behind the counter knew I needed directions.” She said, “Are you lost?”

“No, because I think you’ll give me directions and then I am no longer lost.”

She knew I needed help. Because I asked. But the sense of being adrift, unanchored, not sure of where you’re going can make you feel a bit anxious.

How do we become lost in our lives? We lose sight of the main thing, the goal. Loosing sight of the main thing is like looking away while driving to fuss at the kids in the back seat, and you have a fender bender. When we lose sight of the purpose of something, we can become lost. In marriages, we can lose sight of the love we had for our spouse early on. When work becomes **God like** and we have no time for family. We can become lost. We can become lost when escaping from our problems; we can turn to alcohol, drugs, and all kinds of other pursuits that draw us away from our loved ones and from God. How do we get lost in our faith?

Happens lots of ways. Life throws us an unexpected business problem, relationship issue,..... health crisis. We **think** we are on the right road, the right highway, cruising along at a good clip and we find that..... the road ends. The overpass is unfinished, under construction. We take a wrong turn down the path to pursuit of power, privilege, fame and fortune, the bigger

house, status, or even avoidance of issues or problems in our life, and we lose ourselves.

Being lost is not shameful, but it is painful. Being lost is not WHO you are, it is WHERE you are. But you don't have to STAY lost friends.

How do we find our way home? Hansel and Gretel left a trail of bread crumbs to find their way home. The kid who is lost cries out and gets help. Men stop and ask for directions, be courageous, and ask for help. Friends, we too are like those lost kids at times... If you are feeling lost, know these things:

1. **You are loved.** There is a God of grace in heaven that loves you so much, so fully, so completely, that he would rather spend time talking to you, listening to you, guiding you, loving you more than anything. You are loved by God the Father, by God the Son Jesus Christ, and by God the Spirit.

You are so loved that even when you feel lost, you are not alone. Hear me. YOU ARE NOT ALONE..... Jesus Christ gave his life for you so that you might be found. "Amazing grace ho sweet the sound, that saved wretch like me, I once was lost, but NOW, I'm found, was blind but now I see."

**2. Recognize you feel lost.** Yeah takes some courage to admit it. But we have all gotten off track a time or two. When we realize it, then we can begin finding our way home with the help and love of Christ.

**3. Ask for directions.** If you are lost in Kansas City, and you see a traffic cop or an information booth in downtown KC, would you ask for help, or would you just hope and wish that you'd get it figured out on your own? Asking for direction for us as Christians, for those who might be seekers, for those who are unsure of their faith, it can begin by a simple step. Asking.

**4. Pray.** That God put a person in your life to guide you to the sure path. "Yeah sure Jerry, but your not lost." Well, I have been lost. Before. Well what do I pray for? Well perhaps clarity to understand the situation. Pray that God give you a sense of calm, and boldness and courage to ask for help. Pray that the intercessors and prayer warriors in this church will harness their collective God driven prayer life to intercede for you. If your car breaks down, you call a wrecker and have the car repaired at the garage. If your lights blow out at the house all the time, you call an electrician.

If your life blows up, do you call on prayer warriors in your church family?

We have them. We have vital praying saints that will spend time on their knees for you, and with you. Healing room ministry. Praying Mom's, etc. Pastors, staff. Friends, family. It takes courage to ask for help. Pray that God give you strength, and courage to cry out. Cry out to Jesus. Ask a faithful friend for help.

A friend several years ago told me he lost his faith. "Why?" I said. "Well, God just didn't ever come through for me." Perhaps not in the way he wanted God to. But his faith was not really lost. He was stuck on an endless traffic circle without direction. But God was with him the whole time. He rediscovered his love for the Lord in a group of men who studied the Bible at a Pizza Hut one time per week. God is with us.

People of God, you are all on a journey of discovery. **God is with us**, with you in the midst of that journey. You are heading from the known, comfortable place of Canaan /Lubbock to the unknown land of Goshen. We move to a land of discovery and rediscovery and a land of challenge. Yet ultimately if we ask God to help us find our way daily, he leads us to the promised land of joy, peace, salvation and grace. We do not know what our

future holds, except that God through Jesus Christ, who loves us so much, in the power of the Holy Spirit, is with you always.

**You are loved.** Hear those words. **You are loved.** You may feel, lost, but **YOU ARE LOVED.** Perhaps by friends and family, but more importantly by the creator of the heavens and earth. The one who hung the planets and stars and is creator of all, knows you and cares for you...by NAME. God in heaven loves you. Can you say this?

**“1. God loves me, 2. Jesus loves me. 3. I am loved.”** God, through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit sees your potential, sees your hurt and frustration, sees your every need, sees your woundedness and will wipe away every tear. Each of us has been given a gift of life that can be so wonderful, so great, so fulfilling, that we sometimes don't want to believe it. God loves you. Every hair on your head. God loved you so much, that His Son, Jesus the Christ came to live, and teach, and preach, and perform miracles, and to live and die a brutal death for me, a sinner, for you, a sinner, on a cross. He did that so you might live life abundantly, fully, vibrantly. Jesus Christ came find you in the darkness, in your “lostness”. To bring you to a life of Light and grace and love and salvation. Jesus came to be savior and Lord of your..... life.

Israel/Jacob sent his son Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. Today, if you have been dealt a wrong turn, handed a detour, run into the relationship barricade in your life that says, Road Closed. If you have encountered health issues that make you feel LOST, if you need direction. If you feel out of step and frustrated..... hear this, Jesus Christ the navigator knows the way for your life. He comes to seek the least and the lost. He walks with you always. Jesus loves you so much, that he will never leave you, he will stand with you in the great and good times, and he will draw close to you in the hard and harsh times. Just as the shepherd seeks the one lost sheep relentlessly until they are found: just as the woman turns her home upside down to find the lost coin, just as the loving father waited for that lost child patiently on the front porch of the house, searching the horizon for His child's familiar silhouette, your Father in heaven, your Savior Jesus Christ, searches for you, waits for you, and will find you.

This morning, Jesus walks with each of us. If you wish to commit your life to Christ for the first time, or to recommit your life and would like prayer, come to the rail here and we will pray with you. If you are feeling a bit lost, stop, ask Christ for prayerful direction. Call out to the Christ, he will hear

you, he will find you, he will save you and restore you. God is with us. IN  
the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let's pray now.