

“Summer Road Trip, Attention to Direction”

By Arman Jorge

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Thank you for that beautiful words. I hope I can keep up to that words. As you know, this is a youth service, and it doesn't stop there. Actually, the children's church, they're going to perform some songs and testimonies today, so I'd like to call them to the front, if they may come right now, please. We've got a couple of ladies, here, who are going to share a testimony, or share a Scripture.

Ashley: Jeremiah 29:11-13 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

God says that if I put him first in my life, He will take care of me. God bless.

Kazia: Before I read this, I want to say how grateful I am to be in this church, and be able to have the opportunity to come here every Sunday and learn more about God, and have the opportunity to go to youth picnics that the church hosts for us, to enjoy ourselves and learn more about God.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 “After he had slain Sihon the king of the Amorites, which dwelt in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, which dwelt at Astaroth in Edrei: On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law, saying, The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all *the places* nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them. And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:”

Amen. They're going to sing a song for you. Last week, they were going through a study in the class about Noah and how God remembered Noah after the flood. And, we're going to sing a song, “Do Lord.”

Do Lord, o do Lord, o do remember me.

There's nothing like bringing the children in front, over here, and just light up the place, you know? I'm thankful for that opportunity, you know? It's—I'm going to say that this message is kind of tough for me to put together. Not only because I have to gear—I want to make sure it's geared up for adults, but since we have a youth service this morning, I want to make sure it's for them, too. So, my title this morning, well, actually, you know, God's title this morning, “Summer Road Trip, Attention to Direction.” And, you know, because, I can, you know, everyone's pretty much can relate to this, you know, everyone has taking a road trip at one time or another. And, there's nothing more American than a good old-fashioned road trip. You know? Time to roll down the window, let your hair down, feel the wind. Honestly, I used to have a lot of hair, but time goes real fast, and it goes real fast, too, so...

You know, I heard a song a long time ago, back in the '80s, it's a blues song, it goes like, “Keep your eyes on the road, your hands upon the wheel, let it roll, let it roll.” Roadhouse blues.

So, I mean, I didn't listen to that, but just heard that song, and it kind of stuck to my mind. I don't know about your families, my family, when they hear about road trip, they light up. They just, "When we going?" You know? Normally my wife would pack for my children; she would do all the packing and stuff. My daughter, Ashley, she was just singing here, she's nine now, and we told her that we're going to do a road trip, and she said, "Don't touch my stuff. I've got to start packing now." You know? And, two weeks before we leave, she was already packed. And, I came to her, and I was like, "Ashley, we've still got two weeks." "Oh, I know; I just want to be ready." "Are you sure you're not going to wear any clothes that you packed in there?" "Oh, yeah, I've got some stuff on the side. I'm all good." So, I mean, you know, they're excited about that, you know? They're excited about that road trip. And, you know, I didn't take them far away. You know, a road trip doesn't have to be that far away. It could be within the state that you're in. Just a little new environment.

You know, I remember my first road trip. I was thirteen years old, back in the 1980s. I took a road trip on my own. I was in the Philippines. I was kind of scared then, because, you know, it was like my first time. I don't know where I'm going. I actually know a little bit, but we don't have no car, so I have to commute, take buses. I have to take one bus to another bus just to get me to where I'm going. Anyway, I took that on the summer time, and then I went to my mom's side's family, and they had a little farm that I helped out with their farm, in there, and, you know, they make a wine out of coconut tree, you know? And, so, whenever they do that, and they sell it to the dealer, and get money. So, when I get back to the city, I've got a little money in my pocket, you know? Because, you know, I worked a little bit in there. And, then, the year next to that, I went to my dad's side, now, I had to visit my grandmother who has a property, close to the, really, it's an urban area, like there's not a lot of people around there. But, this area that she had there was like this really huge mountain that you could hike up to. And, it was nice, though, I went there, and I spent a little time with my grandmother, and I met a lot of my cousins that I'd never met before. But, there was this one guy, hanging around our family, you know, he happens to be trying to date my cousin, so that's why he was hanging around there. But, this guy, they had a farm also, and he goes up and down in the mountain, hiking up and down, so he knows the place. So, one time I asked him, I said, "Hey, you know, since you've been up there, can you take me up hiking?" "Yeah, sure." He'll never say no to me, because, if he does, I'll talk to my cousin and take care of him. So, and so, he did that, and I was just following this guy's lead, you know? So, we went up to the mountain, hike up—took us like all day, all night to go up the mountain. And, the problem with that, with me, is because I was from the city, I went up there without anything, you know? I'm like, it was just close, we started hiking. And, I didn't say anything, because he thinks he knows what he's doing, so I've got to follow his lead. And, so, when it comes to the part where we got thirsty, he was like, he saw like a little puddle on the ground, you know? And, so he went down there, he started moving away those dust, and he took the big leaf, and he took and shaped it like a cup, and then he scooped it and started drinking it. And, then he goes, (motioning to me) and I was like (shaking my head), "I got to drink to that?" "Yeah." And, you know what, I'm thirsty, you know, anything you can drink, yes, you're going to drink it. So I did. And, thank goodness, I'm still here. You know? Still here. You know, when I came to America, I had my stepfather's mom who loves, she loves reunions. And, she likes to get together with family and she'll live up in Iowa by herself, because her husband passed away, so she lives by herself. And, she likes to get people to get together. And, so, what she does she gets all the family and she rents a cabin, she's close by Minnesota, and there's a lot of nice lakes in Minnesota, so she rents a couple of cabins there for a couple of weeks, and then we all go there, and we meet. And, that's what she likes. She likes the reunions. She just likes to get together with everybody, people with different things about, you know, road trips.

So, this month's theme Scripture is found in Matthew, chapter eighteen, verse three. And, it says:

Matthew 18:3 *And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Now, the previous verse to this, the reason the statement came about is because the disciples asked who is the greatest in the kingdom? And, Jesus just kind of took a child, and put it in front of them, and the child just kind of demonstrated, didn't say a word, just kind of demonstrated. And that's when Jesus said you shall not enter into the kingdom. So, what does this have to do with road trips? You know? Well, the child is special to Jesus, okay? In our family, road trip is special. I mean, this is the time when we get together. I mean, obviously, you could do a winter road trip, or a spring road trip or, or however you want, but, you know what? Summer road trip is just special, because, you know, the options are endless. You can do all kinds of things in the summertime. So, that's special to us. And, road trip, there's a lot of road trip essentials. There's a lot of different—you know, and, I mentioned already, you're going to have packing, that's one of the road trip essentials. You're going to do an outfit to wear, so you've got some outfit to wear, get comfortable, so you got to go see and do, food to eat, games, music, navigation, safety kit, transportation, accommodations, and destination. I'm just going to talk about a couple of these essentials. And, part one of my message is dress modestly.

Part 1: Dress Modestly.

You ever seen those vehicles that's pulled over the interstate, trying to navigate their, you know, backpack, and just, hunch over with an open door trying to change clothes, I've seen some of those. Someone going in a stop, because they're trying to do different things, you know, at the same time, they probably want to be dressed modest. Okay? When I go in on the road trips, I like to wear loose clothing and stuff. I have to say this, though, when we had—a couple of years ago, when we drove cross country, you know, we came from here to go to Las Vegas and Arizona. My son Aaron was driving, I'm the navigator. And, at one time, I remember, we were going up to Mount Rushmore, but, before that, it was like 12:00, 1:00 at night, in the morning, now, and I gave him the wrong address. I wasn't paying attention. I was supposed to give him the address to the hotel where we're going to stay, so we can go get some rest, instead, I gave him the address to Mount Rushmore. So, I can see the frustration in his eyes. Everyone was tired we want to get, you know, and so we we're going, and when we were starting going, just started weaving, and turning around, and there's nothing to see anymore and start getting dark. And, he says, "Dad, I think we're lost." I said, "I think you're right. Let me go check my navigation." I looked it up, and I said, "I'm sorry, I gave you the wrong address, let's take it and go." And, so, I have to pay attention, you know? And, that's one of the things I didn't. So, but, anyway, back to dress modestly. You know, I like to wear loose clothing and just kind of, you know, get comfortable. You know, you get your shoes loose, so you can just do whatever, so you're not tired of driving. My first verse this morning, is in First Timothy, chapter two, verse nine and ten. And, it says like this:

1 Timothy 2:9-10 *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

I want to say this is not just for women. this goes both ways, boys and men. Okay? It goes both ways. Last month, I was reading an article about this college student; she was from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She was a senior student there. and, she was running a test, she was running a test on her thesis presentation. She was going to run a test run on her thesis presentation, and part of her thesis presentation, she was supposed to wear short shorts, really short, a little bit revealing. And, so, the professor came to her, approached her, and he said, "You

know, the choice of your clothing is a little bit inappropriate. And, your shorts are really short.” And the professor went on to say, “You know, you're inviting the male gaze away from the content of your presentation and onto your body.” And, of course, her response wasn't really pretty, she took that and got together a group of other college students to protest him. Okay? And, course, she didn't get the whole school to do that, she got some other kids, some other students, that went to her and actually told her, “You have a moral obligation to dress more conservatively to your audience.” So, on her final—she didn't like that—so, on her final address to this, her thesis presentation, she came there with clothes on. Okay? She got in the middle, she came with clothes on, but she took it off. She had the top one, and then her underwear. So, and, along with that, she invited other people to do it with her. And, so, I just want to say, I want to talk to the young people today, okay? This is, this is what the environment that we have in this world, today. And, it's been accepted. A lot of people accepted this. But, you know, I want to tell you this morning, young people, that everything valuable that God has made in this world are well covered and protected. Everything that will matter. For example, diamonds, where do you find diamonds? Down in the ground, well covered and protected. Where do you find pearls? Down in the ocean, well covered and protected, with beautiful shells. Where do you find gold? Gold is way down in a mine, well protected well covered and protected, layers of rocks. If you want to get to them, you're going to have to dig deep in order to find them. Okay? So, young people, your body is very sacred to God, valuable and unique. Okay? You are far more precious than diamonds, gold, or pearls. You're, you were—I took a little Spanish class, you are the obra maestra of God's creation. The masterpiece. You're a masterpiece. Okay? So, your body should be covered too, amen? So, now, if you keep this, if you keep your treasures, minerals, just like diamonds, pearls, and gold, deeply covered up, you know what can happen? A reputable mining company will come down and conduct extensive exploration. First, what they're going to do is they're going to contact your government in this case, someone would have to come to you, your family, that's a family. They're going to contact your family. And, then they will sign a professional contract which is, like, they want to go under this, they're going to go talk about wedding, and then, they will mine you professionally which is legal marriage. Okay? So, what I'm going to say is, if you leave your precious, precious minerals uncovered, on the surface of this Earth, you will always attract illegal miners, and mine you illegally. Okay? So, what I want to say is let's keep your precious minerals, your body, deeply covered up, so that it invites professional miners to chase you. Amen? Amen?

Part 2: Quench The Thirst, Stricken with Regrets.

On any road trip, everything and everyone gets thirsty. Okay? That includes your transportation. It's going to take some gas, you've got to fill it up with gas. Your horse, you're going to get thirsty, your drivers and passengers, your animals, your pets, if you have pets along with you, they're going to get thirsty, too. Well, an Israelite took a summer road trip on their own, and everyone got thirsty, and everyone got thirsty, including their animals. In Exodus, chapter seventeen, verse one through six, and it says like this:

Exodus 17:1-5 *And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the Lord? And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou*

smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

So, they got thirsty, so they God did the miracle, Moses followed instructions very well, strike the rock, the water came out, everyone got you know quench their thirst, including the animals. Now, fast forward, forty years later, the same situation, the same situation that Israelite is coming to Moses. Numbers, twenty, one through twelve:

Numbers 20:1-12 *Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord! And why have ye brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink. And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.*

So, this incident happened, and, Moses was barred from entering the promised land. “Why? Why God? I mean, the first time You told me, it was, You told me to hit it. Sure, I was angry, God. I did the same thing, what You did me the second time, I hit it. I had it twice. I know I didn't listen, I'm supposed to speak to it, but, yet, I hit it anyway. I was angry. Don't You understand that, God? Why?” Well, here's the problem. The problem is, number one, Moses disobeyed a direct order from God. A direct command from God. That's number one. Okay? He was supposed to—God told him to speak to the rock, and he instead, he hit the rock twice, and can you believe it? God gave him the miracle anyway. That's how good God is. You know? Even though his intention was a little different, God made that miracle happen, anyway. And, the second one that he did, Moses took the credit for bringing forth the water. Well, because, he said, when he asked the people to gather together at the rock, and he said, “Must we fetch you water out of this rock?” Taking the credit for himself. That's a steep right there. And, this is another big one. Moses did this publicly, in front of everybody. In front of everybody. Humiliated God in front of everybody, okay? Number four: the rock that was struck the first time that was meant for Christ on His crucifixion. When the rock was struck the first time, that was the crucifixion of Christ. That was the picture of the crucifixion of Christ, right there. And, the second time, when God told him to speak to the rock, that meant, as a prayer to the rock, to God, to Jesus. That meant, as a prayer. But, instead, Moses struck the rock twice, totally disobeyed God, and humiliated. And, so, God's biblical plan, on this part, kind of got destroyed a little bit. You know, Jesus was struck the first time, and then, when Moses struck it again, basically, he's sending Jesus back again to be crucified. But, God, you know, didn't allow that. He did not allow that. So, obviously, that didn't

happen. But, you see, young people, Moses was like the Jesus Christ of the Old Testament. He was their savior. He was making miracles, miracles after miracles with God's help. He is their savior. He's the Jesus Christ of the Old Testament. He has that kind of relationship with God. Face to face, talking to God right as if he was next to Him. But, you know what? God didn't have favoritism in His class. God didn't have favoritism in His class. God didn't have a teacher's pet in His class. So, that's what it is. That's what it says. Attention to direction.

Part 3: Destination Arrived

You know what happens when people are going on a road trip. Mostly what happens is, when they come together, they, you know, they—it's a big reunion. You say, "Hey, how you doing? You know, I haven't seen you in a long time." You know, they hug, they shake their hand, and then they just, you know, all happy. And, some people just kind of take on the activities, you know, you know, try to find out what they can hike up, or do other things, that's what they do. And, some people just kind of want to relax. You know? Just relax, watch other people, enjoying their time, their vacation, whatever, you know. That's what they do. In Revelation, chapter twenty-one, verse one through five, and it says like this:

Revelation 21:1-5 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

This is, probably, the biggest reunion of all. Biggest reunion. And, you know, you know, if you're Christian or not, whether you know God or not, #35:05# this is probably what everyone is looking for. Not probably, I *know* this is what they are looking for. And, the problem with this is, the people that don't know it, they constantly take these things that the world has to offer and put in for themselves and fill their void with their life with it. Yeah, sure, they'll be happy, temporarily. But, this is permanent, church. This is permanent, church. But, I want to go back, I want to go back to the main, to the theme Scripture in Matthew, chapter eighteen, verse three, and it says:

Matthew 18:3 *And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Except. You know, Jesus did not leave any ifs or buts on this statement, right there. You don't have no room for that. And, what's so amazing about this is because, He just took a little child, and didn't say anything and He brought him to them. Right in the midst of them. So, what is it? What is it about a little child—and the thing is, He said a little child, He didn't say child, or children; He said little child, and, to me, little child, probably the toddlers, probably one years old, two years old, that's, to me, that's what it is. So, what is it about a little child that Jesus is so hung up on, and just so special about it? Well, first, because they are so honest within themselves, you know? They do a lot of things that they don't know what they're doing. You might think that they're doing wrong, but they don't know that. That's what the child is. They're so innocent, and their heart is so honest to God, in front of His eyes. Okay? So, what else? What else a little child? A little

child can't get a job; they can't get a job. They can't go do anything at all. They can't take care of the home. They can't go wash the dishes. They can't go clean the house, vacuum the floor. They can't do all of that. They can't grow a garden. Okay? To provide food for themselves. They can't do that. You know? they can't drive a car to get to another place where they want to go. So, they can't cook. So, you know what? If you take the outside support that we all see in the world today, you take that outside support, that little child will die; it will not live. So, what am I saying? What am I saying, here? I'm saying that when you come to God, you have to be hopeless, you have to be helpless, you have to be powerless. You have to be powerless when you come to God. You ever remember, you ever remember when a Solomon had a dream when he was a little child? He had a dream as a little child and God talked to him in his dream and God asked him, he says, "What do you want? What do you want? I'll give it to you." You know what his response was? Solomon's response? He said, "God, I am but a little child. I don't know how to go in and go out, God, let alone do other things. But, if you're asking me anything, I just want you to give me wisdom." And, you know what? God gave him wisdom and much, much more. Why? because he came to God as a little child. Powerless, helpless, and hopeless. That's what he did. That's what he did. Powerless, hopeless—you know, Jesus, Jesus, Himself, He said, "I can't do anything. I can't do anything, but whatever God taught me. I can't do nothing. Whatever God taught me, that's all I can do." Powerless, helpless, and hopeless. So, today, if you want to have that much of a good relationship with God, young people, I hate to step on some people's toes today, but I know some people today were just forced to be here. People were here today just because you have to preach. People are here today just because you have to teach. People are here today just because you have to sing this song. Well, I got to tell you, I got to tell you, though, that's not good enough to God. That's not good enough to God. Okay? You have to come—young people, you want to have a good relationship with God? You want to have that good connection to God? You have to be as a little child. Powerless, helpless, and hopeless. The Bible says today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). If you hear my voice, take heed, that's what Jesus said (Matthew 18:10). Take heed. if you want to have that much relationship with God, today is the day. God bless you.