

Easter 2014

# THE



# MAP

{WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO FOLLOW THE RESURRECTED JESUS AS ONE CHURCH FAMILY?}

# DEFINITION

**Map** [map] *noun* : 1) a diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, etc. : a street map. Phrasal Verbs : "map something out" plan a route or course of action in detail : *I mapped out a route over familiar country near home.* ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from medieval Latin **mappa mundi**, literally '*sheet of the world.*'  
~Apple MacBook Pro dictionary

"A map is a visual representation of an area: a symbolic depiction highlighting relationships between elements of that space such as objects, regions, and themes. Many maps are static two-dimensional, geometrically accurate (or approximately accurate) representations of three-dimensional space, while others are dynamic or interactive, even three-dimensional. Although most commonly used to depict geography, maps may represent any space, real or imagined, without regard to context or scale (ex: brain or DNA mapping).  
~Wikipedia

# QUOTES

"Nothing else compares to Paschaltide (*the liturgical season of Easter*) for bringing the whole Christian calendar to one hot point of experience. Yes, the Advent waiting had been a glimpse of what it means to believe in the return. Yes, Christmas locked the human and the divine into the human psyche as one. Yes, Lent brought us to our knees in the face of the awesome idea that the divine had reached down to us so that we might reach back. But only

here in this time, between the bursting open of the tomb, and fifty days later, the overflowing of the Holy Spirit, does the full awareness of what it is to live in Christ, with Christ, and through Christ fully dawn. Indeed, these first Christians were the first citizens of the new creation. Now began the breaking open of the future. Now the human community sees life lived as it is meant to be. Now creation is re-created. In this Creation, Jesus, risen, walks among the living to demonstrate the presence of the living God among us. In this period, we are all risen to new life. We all become a new people together."

~Joan Chittester, *The Liturgical Year*

"The resurrection means rebirth out of impotence and indolence to "the living hope," [which] means a passion for life and a lived protest against death...It lives from something different—from the superabundance of God's future."  
~Jurgen Moltmann

"The resurrection of Jesus is a sign of God's purpose and power to restore his creation to its full stature and integrity...In the aftermath of Gethsemane, we catch a scent of Eden...The resurrection is like the first day of a new creation."  
~Alistair McGrath

"It is almost too brilliant for me to contemplate; it is like looking directly into the sun; I am burned and blinded by life."  
~Madeleine L'Engle, *on Easter*

# THEME

The proliferation of the iPhone has exponentially increased our reliance upon said devices for navigational purposes. While the printed map retains its importance, especially in an era of rapidly dwindling cellular batteries (*Aaaa! I forgot my phone charger!*), the functionality of an entire "Google-mapped" world at your fingertips, GPS at your service with one swipe of the finger, has fundamentally altered our ability to navigate our world. Once upon a time, the stars guided travelers across the seas. Now, we live in a world that blinks in disbelief that an entire airline full of passengers can simply disappear over the Indian Ocean, lost in a seemingly tragic accident at sea, their families unable to properly grieve their loss, experiencing the oddly relieving closure that the finality of death brings.

How remarkably similar to the muted chaos of that Sunday morning, as Cleopas and a friend slowly walked home to Emmaus, utterly defeated at the loss of the Messiah Jesus. *"They stood still, their faces downcast... 'Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?... We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel'" (Luke 24:17-21)*. One would imagine that Jesus would gently listen to their heartbreak, offering an empathetic shoulder, understanding the crushing nature of their perceived loss. And yet, Jesus responds with a startling amount of harshness, seeking to awaken them to the redrawn map standing right in front of them: "He said to them, *'How foolish you are, and*

*how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself... Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight" (Luke 24:25-27)*. Convicted and alive, *"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures for us?" (Luke 24:31-32)*

This is the Easter experience, summarized in one profound conversation. Reality has been redrawn—death has lost its sting, sin has been defeated, the Resurrected Jesus, long thought crushed beyond repair, suddenly is talking to you with an intensity that changes everything. It's fascinating to me that the early Christian communities were simply known as "**The Way**," a nod to Jesus' declaration that he himself contained the fullness of the navigation we all are seeking. Lost in the confusion and grief of their assumed path being shattered, these two disciples had to be convinced that a better path was emerging—the Spirit of God, alive, coming to dwell in the hearts of mankind, permanently. Pentecost was on the horizon, just around the bend. And yet, the need for navigation remains. How do we get from Easter to Pentecost, fully embracing the resurrected life that is available for all the sons & daughters of God?

**Welcome, 3rd Place, to "The Map,"  
a season of re-orientation into the  
resurrected reality we now live within.  
Jesus is alive!**

*"Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him'" (John 14:6-7).*  
~Chris Kamalski

#LOVEJESUSLOVEOTHERS

## THE MAP / GET OUT

**Scripture to Read Together:**  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

### **Quotes to Meditate Upon:**

1) "The Map is a tool, a guide line, a way to navigate your walking with Jesus and his church. It aims to provide a response to the questions, 'Where do I begin?' or 'What am I supposed to do next?' It will hopefully help us to change our hearts, to redirect them so we can change the hearts of others. So that we can become Lovers of God and people. We breathe in the Spirit of God, inspiration, and breathe out in flesh Jesus to the world: incarnation. To do life together. To love one another. To build a new culture within the shell of the old. To bind the wounds of the other just like Jesus bound ours. To live the message of the cross. To live a resurrected life. To live a life blown around by the Spirit. To join God in the adventure of restoring. To live the WAY in the middle of this world.

~3rd Place, The Map

2) "The Get Out movement means exactly that, to get out. Get out from wherever you are, from wherever you have realized your life has grown stale. For some this means to discover Christ for the first time, to become a follower of Jesus, to take the first step on the road to a new creation. For others it means to break free of dead tradition, for others it means discovering that there is even more than you thought and that there is a new adventure that is waiting, that there is something that

you have to do.

~3rd Place, *The Map*

### #TrainNaked Challenges:

1) Jesus simplified the entire Law to two central tenets: Loving God with all of you, helping to have that love spill over to all one's neighbors as we love ourselves. How can the season of Easter, where we live out the reality of the Resurrection of Christ in our daily lives, be an affirmation of the centrality of these central tenets of the way of God in following Jesus? How can you 'live Resurrection' through intentional love of God and neighbor over the next weeks?

2) Where has your life grown stale? Where is your faith showing signs of rot? What fresh work of Resurrection is Christ inviting you into? Purpose this week to take the first step towards that new work of the Resurrected Christ in your life. Then get out and do it!

### Prayer Focus:

1) "Jesus, may your Resurrection become our reality as we simply love God and neighbor with all of our strength in these days."

2) Jesus, may the wind of your Spirit blow fresh upon the stale places of my heart. May I step forward where you are leading, pursuing the life you offer on earth as it is in heaven."

## THE MAP / LIMINAL SPACE

### Scripture to Read Together:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41;

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1

Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

### Quote to Meditate Upon:

"Liminal space is the space in between, where you have gotten out, but you haven't arrived yet. The place where you know things will never again be as they were, but you do not know yet how things will be on the other side. In many cultures this time is cherished, because it is during this time that you have the potential to make choices that will create the most profound positive change in your life. Ever."

~3rd Place, *The Map*

### #TrainNaked Challenge:

Lean into an area of liminal space that currently exists in your life. Invite a friend from 3rd Place to "lean alongside you," pursuing the choices you can make to truly change into the person Jesus desires for you to be. This is actually possible, especially in the company of someone walking with you. How can you pursue positive transformation unto maturity in Christ's image?

### Prayer Focus:

"Jesus, show me who will 'lean alongside me' in this liminal space I find myself in. May the community of the Risen Christ at 3rd Place draw together in greater unity as we lean into these liminal spaces."

## THE MAP / DRAW CIRCLES

### Scripture to Read Together:

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;

1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

### Quote to Meditate Upon:

"The Christian life is not a life lived in solitude, it is not a lonely path. It is a life lived in community, in communion with others that are walking behind Jesus. It is a shared life. All these circles below are of course encircled by your relationship with the triune God, the big circle we are invited into. This is the circle you entered into, you were born into. The dance of the Trinity. In this shared life, there are many overlapping circles of relationships that you need when you follow Jesus. The purpose of this movement is to help you to become aware of those circles, since we all have them. And to where they lack or are broken, to put in an effort to establish or repair them."

*~3rd Place, The Map*

### **#TrainNaked Challenge:**

Gather an intimate community of family and friends from 3rd Place around a table, sharing the Eucharist while speaking openly of the ways Jesus is bringing life and resurrection to your heart. Share bread and wine, communing with Jesus and each other as you reflect on the broken body and shed blood of Christ for all. Using "The Map" guide, identify which relational circle of belonging (Public, Social, Personal, Intimate) you need to give attention to currently. Where is relationship broken, needing fresh effort to repair or re-establish? Move towards those people in faith.

### **Prayer Focus:**

"Jesus, show me those in my life that I belong to, and how I need to attend to the health of those relationships. May I make effort to communicate value and a sense of belonging to those dear souls. Thank you for all those in my life."

## **THE MAP / LEARN**

### **Scripture to Read Together:**

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

### **Quote to Meditate Upon:**

"Christianity has always been and always will be a learning religion. Learning and un-learning is a massive part of the process of becoming and staying a follower of Jesus. Learning also happens in community, within your circles. You learn from one another, you learn together. It is important to read, study, listen and keep on discovering. Read, reflect on and discuss the scriptures, wrestle with them. Read other books, explore different fields, Keep on learning. What is just as, if not more, important is to un-learn. Those who we have learned from in church and in the world, did not always know everything, surprisingly. What we have learned from our culture and from the media can be poisonous. We need the discernment and wisdom of our circles to help us to unlearn negative behaviour and ill-formed ideas."

*~3rd Place, The Map*

### **#TrainNaked Challenge:**

Begin a fresh learning initiative with someone from 3rd Place. Read a new book together, embark together upon a spiritual practice never before attempted (or attempted with any form of successful effort), be intentional about dialogue together as you grow as a follower of Jesus in the Way of God. The key: Learning together.

### Prayer Focus:

"Jesus, what do you wish me to learn as I seek to follow you in this season? Who can I learn with?"

## THE MAP / TRAIN-NAKED

### Scripture to Read Together:

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

### Quote to Meditate Upon:

"Paul uses the term *gymnasto* in 1 Timothy, a term to describe training in a gymnasium where the ancient Greeks trained and competed naked. He uses this term to describe how we should be when we train, to train naked before God. When we do the practices, we go to God with no pretense, no masks, just as we are. Naked. We engage in spiritual disciplines, practices or training exercises. Which have to do with our love for Jesus (prayer, devotion, worship) our love for one another (community, generosity, fellowship) and our love for others (mission, social justice, evangelism). Practically our train naked way plays out like this, it is...

- **Ordinary.** We encourage a 'melk en brood' spirituality. It is something that's familiar, which happens every single day, like going to buy milk and bread. It's physical, human and connected.
- **Rhythmic.** Over the years we have come to discover the benefits of engaging in a rhythmic and cyclical spirituality. We follow the liturgical year, traveling each year through the life of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. And so in this rhythm we see the daily need for our own

death and resurrection.

- **Relational.** Training happens within your circles, customized to where you are and what God is up to in your life."

~3rd Place, *The Map* ("Train Naked" concept originally inspired by Tom Smith)

### #TrainNaked Challenge:

What spiritual practice that is ordinary, rhythmic, and relational can you intentionally begin this season? How can you deliberately avoid pretense and masks as you train for maturity in Christ? Who can you train with?

### Prayer Focus:

"Jesus, unmask the pretense in my life, and replace it with a fresh desire to train for maturity in life with you."

## THE MAP / REFLECT

### Scripture to Read Together:

Acts 1:1-14; Psalm 93;  
Ephesians 1:15-23;  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11;  
Luke 24:44-53; John 17:1-11

### Quote to Meditate Upon:

"At certain times in your life, we need to stop and take stock of where we are and how far we have come. Most importantly we need to honestly look and see whether or not we have become lukewarm and stale. We need to reflect and see if we need to make a new jump. If we need to get out once again, and be thrust into liminal space."

~3rd Place, *The Map*

## #TrainNaked Challenge:

Find a quiet, warm space as the coldness of winter descends to take stock your life, and how you currently find yourself walking with Jesus as His apprentice in the way of God almost halfway through 2014. Curl up with a hot cup of coffee or tea, and a favorite journal, and look back upon the past weeks of Easter. How is your faith maturing? Capture this in your journal at some point this week.

## Prayer Focus:

"Jesus, may I pause to remember your ever-present, ongoing work in my life this week. Thank you!"

# SCRIPTURE

- "Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him' (John 14:6-7).
- "I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (Acts 24:14-16).
- "Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man,

with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately" (Acts 18:24-26).

- "He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself...Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures for us?'" (Luke 24:25-27, 31-32)

#VIERVRIENDE