

The Right Map

What a sinking feeling I had. I should have known better. Blasted map!!!

I was working in a desolate area of the Superior National Forest, and due to its remoteness, I was spending the night at a ramshackle resort kept open for diehard deer hunters. It was dark, cold and snowy. After the long day's work, I was tired and anticipating a nice warm cabin. As the crow flies, the resort was not that far away, but the main road was over double the length of the shortcut I found on my official U.S. Govt. map. I could save 30 minutes! But to my horror, I discovered it was not a road as the map indicated, but a winter logging trail built through a spruce swamp! What a time to learn about map qualities.

As I worked my way down the muddy, rocky four-wheel drive trail with my two-wheel drive truck, I became frustrated, for there were more options than the map indicated. I guessed and slowly moved on. I couldn't turn around for the trees pressed against the truck. What came next was demoralizing; the road before me was under water. The busy beavers had done their job! All I imagined was this Forest Service truck sinking out of sight. How do I explain that one?

Looking back over the early years of my life, I realized my life was like that anxious night in the North Woods. The life maps I used were not the best. It was the Bible that changed my life's direction, for it stood alone as the only trustworthy road map of life. It had withstood the test of time and inquiry. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." His Word does not change; His way does not change. Following Him is moving - in the right direction that is!

Okay, I was in a fix, I had no other choice; I floored the gas pedal and came out the other side. I made it to the resort. Yes, the sinking feel was gone! But much to my vexation the heater in the cabin didn't work. The sinking feeling was back! It was a miserably cold night in a damp cabin. I'm glad Jesus never disappoints!

Mark Fisher