



## Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

*The OLD TESTAMENT- Their Story is Our Story*

### Tower of Babel Genesis 11:1 – 9, Week 4

After the flood, humanity again began to multiply and fill the earth. Everyone spoke one language so they were able to understand each other well. A shift had happened in the mindset of humankind; where before the flood it was every man for himself, after this new generation stressed community, setting aside their own interests for that of the common good, putting the community's needs above their own. For a while, this served the people well. Staying together in a settlement offered more security than the uncertainties of dispersion; uniformity was preferred over diversity as it held the community together as a more cohesive group and the interests of the community were addressed.

However, at some point, a shift happened in the minds of the people. The strength that grew out of their community-based organization and goodwill gradually made them proud and self-serving. With growth and success came power and fame which attributed to their own skills rather than recognizing them as gifts from God. Because they now saw themselves as controlling their own fate, equality with God was the natural next step which manifested in their desire to build a tower.

*Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth. (Genesis 11:4)*

Their tower was not only a visual monument to their race, it became a symbol of humanity's self-serving pursuit of fame, power, and wealth. They no longer needed God - or so they thought.

Recognition, authority, and success are not inherently bad things. In fact, as Christians, we are called to apply our God-given gifts and talents for the good of the community. Like the people in our story, our intentions in doing service start out as generous and altruistic. But it is a slippery slope; if we are not very careful, our giving can become more about us and our need to help rather than God's call serve. Like early humanity, we must guard against becoming prideful and arrogant and be ever mindful of our use of power and authority or we risk the consequences.

In the end, God addressed their arrogance by confusing their language so that they could no longer communicate with each other. Losing their uniformity, what they tried so hard to prevent became their reality:

*Thus the Lord scattered them from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. (Genesis 11:8)*

