

The great architect Frank Lloyd Wright shared a memory that may have seemed insignificant at the time, but had a profound influence on the rest of his life. The winter he was 9, he went walking across a snow covered field with his reserved, no-nonsense uncle. As the two of them reached the far end of the field, his uncle stopped him. He pointed out his own tracks in the snow, straight and true as an arrow's flight, and then young Frank's tracks meandering all over the field. "Notice how your tracks wander aimlessly from the fence to the cattle to the woods and back again," his uncle said. "And see how my tracks aim directly to my goal. There is an important lesson in that."

Years later, Frank liked to tell how the experience had contributed to his philosophy in life. "I determined right then, not to miss the things in life, that my uncle had missed."

Frank Lloyd Wright saw in those tracks what his uncle could not: It is easy to let the demands of life keep us from the joys of living.

Any goal in life worth achieving demands a great deal of our energy. Doctors spend a tremendous amount of time studying the human body. The patient's life demands it. Teachers spend a lot of time preparing for class. The student's mind demands it. If you are a mother or father you must sacrifice your life for another. Your children require it.

We could not live if we did not set goals and work to fulfill them. But here's what young Wright discovered at the tender age of 9: The objective in life is not the goal but the journey on the way to the goal.

In our gospel reading, the whole city had gathered around the door, pressing in to see Jesus. The demands on him were already piling up. He cured many, cast out demons, and taught constantly. And his disciples didn't help matters. When he left in the early morning to pray, they went searching for him. And when they found him they said, "What are you doing, everyone is searching for you?"

How do we enjoy the journey when everyone and everything is searching for you, wanting a piece of you, and demanding your time?

As we continue our journey, hard work will be required. Any goal that we have will take hard work if we want to actually meet it. In our gospel, Jesus' goal was to heal, cast out demons and teach. Wherever he went, there were demands. The people wanted him to take care of their needs and it was the disciples that fell into that drama when they got all worked up because Jesus was missing and the people wanted him.

And that brings us to the next point of our reading. Do not let others define your goal. Make your goal and work toward achieving it. Yes Jesus could have stayed in that one town and taken care of just their needs but that was not his goal in ministry. Jesus came to save the world and so in order to do so, he had to heal and teach people from all over the region and not just one town.

And this brings us to the final point for today. Remember to pray! Jesus took time out of his busy schedule to pray. Many times throughout his ministry, the gospel writers make a point that Jesus was praying. Most of the time we have no idea of what he was praying and to be honest, we don't need to know. The fact remains that Jesus prayed to God and that act is an example for us to follow.

Throughout our own journey, we can choose to take a direct path and just focus on getting from point A to point B by keeping your eye on the immediate goal. Or we can wander from side to side while on the journey taking in everything that we see while working towards our goal. Either way will work but there is one part that we must not forget and that is to pray.

God invites us to talk with HIM about anything we want. Jesus took the time to pray while completing his ministry and we too need that time with God.