

Week 5: If You Want to Go Far, Go Together

March 14 - 15, 2026

Last week we talked about **reordering our lives around what matters most** — the *5 percent that only we can do*. And just like the past few weeks in this series, after the message we'll take a few minutes to talk about it together in small groups. I hope we all know that God speaks not only through the talking head sermon, He also speaks through the reflections of the people sitting around us.

But while there are things that **only we can do**, something just as important and we must never forget is this: **We were never meant to do them alone.**

Have you ever watched annual Molokai Hoe. It's the annual outrigger canoe race across the Molokai Channel—41 miles from Hale o Lono Harbor on Molokai to Oahu.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSfkZTSK3RI> (:12 - 1:20)

More than 100 crews enter. Now imagine if one team showed up with **just one paddler**. That would be ridiculous. Because in an outrigger canoe race, you need how many?, **six paddlers rowing together.**

You might get a few strokes paddling alone... but you won't get very far. But when six paddlers move together— same rhythm, same direction— that canoe starts to **fly across the water.**

And if that canoe **huli**, flips over, fo shua no flip it back alone.

In Hawaii we understand something important:

If you want to go far, you don't paddle alone.

But for some reason, many of us try to paddle the canoe of our lives alone—thinking we can go far by ourselves.

And what happens when the storms of life come, you get caught in the big swell and when your canoe huli, woe to you if you not doing life together. Cuz as we tell at NHCO, we always “Mo betta togedda”

And the same thing is true for the Jesus Way.”

While the Jesus Way **is personal**, it was never meant **to be private**.

For many of us, we were taught something very different. I can still hear my mom tell me - Be independent and don't bother nobody. Oh, if you no can do it yourself, I'll do it.

Then COVID happened and for a long season we had to isolate.

We learned how to work online, worship online, and connect with others online.

Some of those were good innovations, but they also reinforced something already happening in our culture: **Life becoming more and more disconnected.**

Then Social Media exploded.

Now we can have hundreds of followers, thousands of IG/FB friends, constant digital interaction, endless scrolling.

But the question we gotta ask is: **Is that the kind of community God designed us for?** Because you know scrolling past someone's life is NOT the same **as walking with them.**

Paul speaks about the importance of walking with others in letter to the Galatians.

1. Walk the Jesus Way by Choosing to Walk with Others

1Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important (Galatians 6:1 - 2 NLT).

If we live long enough, we'll paddle our canoes into some not rough waters, drifting off the Jesus Way, and we'll be overcome by something Jesus never meant us to be in. Addictive or Enslaving Behaviors, Bitterness and unforgiveness, Gossip or slander, maybe Anger that damages relationships

Sometimes it's Pride and Spiritual Arrogance, Thinking we're mo betta den others or Refusing to help someone who has fallen.

And sometimes the struggles are hidden in our heart:

Some sins that "overcome" believers are more internal.

- Envy
- Jealousy
- Greed
- Resentment
- Secret dishonesty

And if you paddle long enough, sometimes you drift into rough water.

That's why Jesus gives us people who will paddle out to us, tie their canoe to ours, and help guide us back to the right channel.

That brings us to the next Jesus Way value. . .

One of the most powerful pictures of community we read about is found in Mark's gospel. Write in your notes.

2. Walk the Jesus Way by Carrying Someone to Jesus

1When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. 2Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, 3four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 4They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. 5Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

6But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, 7"What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

8Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? 9Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? 10So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 11"Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

12And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

And Scripture says something remarkable:

"When Jesus saw their faith..." Not just the man's faith. **Their faith.**

Because sometimes faith looks like **carrying someone who cannot walk.**

Their faith was not just belief—it was **burden-bearing faith.**

This connects directly to **what Paul teaches in Galatians 6:1–2:**

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, The Jesus Way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Walking the Jesus Way means we don't just **receive help**, we also **give help.**

Sometimes people around us are:

- spiritually stuck

- emotionally exhausted
- weighed down by sin or suffering
- Struggling with cancer
- Having a need you could help meet
- Needing a listening ear/a compassionate heart

And God calls us to **pick up a corner of the mat** and carry that person to him.

(Illustrate) Have the Kawasugi Ohana Group show what they do every Friday evening with each other. (Have them carry each other to Jesus) and have Kai share more of what they do)

We need roof crashing mat friends. Friends who when we are down remind us we are not out. Friends, who wouldn't just pass us by, but will would carry us to Jesus.

It may be humbling to be carried, but it's worth it, why? Cuz they'll carry you to Jesus, the one who saves.

Application

So let me ask you:

Who in your life needs encouragement right now?

Who needs someone to pray for them and walk with them?

Who needs help getting back to Jesus?

If you want to go far with Jesus,

be the kind of friend who carries others to Him.

No foget: If you wanna go fast, go alone, But if you wanna go far, Go Togedda, cuz we always Mo Betta Togedda!

(KEYNOTE) REMEMBER check out the website site for all the ministry and Ohana Groups. You'll find mat friends awaiting your presence.

And if you are in a group, invite others to your group or another group)

OG Discussion Questions

- What is one step you could take to walk more intentionally with others in your faith instead of trying to do it alone?
- Who might God be calling you to 'carry to Jesus' right now, and what might that look like this week?
- "What does it practically look like for believers today to 'carry each other's burdens' like Galatians 6 talks about?"