

## Your path in life

In Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken," the roads mentioned are a metaphor representative of the various journeys we all experience in life. More specifically, the paths are symbols of the decisions we must make in life. In reflection, the symbols can be how we derived those decisions where we sometimes, unfortunately, ask ourselves, 'what could I have been thinking?'.

As people of faith, we can analyze whether prayer was involved in the decision? Or was the decision made solely on emotions or circumstances of the moment. The physical difference between the two roads is that one path may be grassy and less traveled, whereas the other was more worn by passers-by and others traveling the path with me, alongside me, and sharing my experiences. The symbolism of the two roads is that the other path, the one that is not taken, represents what can be described as an easy path. Often, this is the course that most people will take in life when making challenging decisions.

For people of faith, standing up for the truth is not an easy path. Doing the right thing in all situations is also not an easy road. Taking the right path in your work, personal life, studies at university, and supportive roles in your community may result in many people watching you from afar. The other; however, the one the narrator chose was the more difficult road. At the end of the poem, the narrator comments that given a chance, he would not have made the same decision again, which leaves us to speculate. He also admits that this choice has made all the difference in his life for better or worse.

It is also noteworthy to mention that the working title is "The Road Not Taken" when the poem is clearly about the road he *did* take. This merely refers to the fact that we always look back at the crucial decisions we make in life by thinking about the option we did not take. In the end, however, the speaker takes the path which is "just as fair" as the other but is "grassy and wanted wear." This is "the road less traveled by," and the poet feels it "has made all the difference." What he means by this is that, even though both choices looked viable, and he could have taken either, he is pleased that, of the two choices, he took the less popular one. It has changed the speaker's journey to have gone in a direction fewer people chose to take.

In these most difficult times, may I encourage you to seek faith, scripture, and good counsel as you chose the roads in your life? As you face these tough decisions, remember, you are not alone. Bangor University Chaplains are here for you. Please take a moment to explore the website for contact information.

Blessings to you, Dr. Tanya Herring, the Bangor Assemblies of God Chaplain