

# Beginners Guide to Predicting Your Future pt 1: Should have seen it Coming

**Intro Story:** *I had a young adult bible study at my house*

-beauty of young adults vs. kids.....

-So Tuesday nights at my house were a LOT OF FUN for a while

-*wrong handed boxing*

-*Mountain Bike Joust*

-*Blind Race*

-We also studied the Bible and shared life together,, but while doing that we did some really funny, crazy stuff

***-With all the stuff we did on Tuesday nights, Kevin shows up with these crazy huge rubber bands,,,,, WHAT DID HE THINK WOULD HAPPEN?!?!?!?!?***

**-HE SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING**

-*people would bleed*

-*there might be permanent damage*

-(SNAP PEOPLE)

-We have all found ourselves in situations we **should have seen coming.**

-the relationship falls apart and we think...(should of seen it coming)..

-the kid ends up making really bad decisions.....

-we start an argument that goes too far,, and we think.....

-we make a few bad financial decisions and suddenly it feels like walls are closing in on us and ,, if we are honest, we think....

-we reach places in our health and drastic steps are required and we think,,,, I should have seen this coming

**Problem: There is sometimes a disconnect between where we want to end up and the Path we are walking.**

-We tend to only connect the dots after the fact.

-One reason we fail to see things coming is Willful Ignorance.

-We are sometimes willfully ignorant because we fail to understand the permanence of life.

-we don't look ahead because we don't understand what is at stake

-we don't understand the permanence of things that happen

**-Most personal problems cannot be fixed.**

-If your car is broken, you can actually take the broken piece off and replace it with a new one,,, **problem solved. GOOD AS NEW!**

-but your life is not like a machine

**-If you do damage to your life, it can be coped with, but it never goes back to being good as new.**

-we can forgive. -we can overcome personal problems but they don't get "fixed"

**-it is never as if it didn't happen**

*-the pain caused to yourself and others can be forgiven but it is never erased it is always part of the story now,,,,,*

-there are complications and changes that never go away

**-Most personal problems cannot be fixed, BUT THEY CAN BE AVOIDED.**

-you CAN LIVE in such a way as to avoid many of the deep regrets in life

*-Illustration: Billy's Toes*

-When I was a kid and my dad was teaching me to MOW THE GRASS, he always stressed how I should **turn and pull the mower to back up**

**-“doing it this way you might cut off your toes”**

*-I did it just to humor him,,,,, but I thought he was crazy*

-but crazy or not to this day I have mostly followed my dad's instructions

**-but I really didn't think it made a difference**

**-UNTIL WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FRIEND BILLY**

-Billy is a grown man

-Billy was cutting the grass and was backing the mower up and **exactly what my dad warned me of HAPPENED TO BILLY**

-he tripped

-the mower kept coming and CUT OFF 2 OF HIS TOES

-It turned out to be major EVENT in his life

**-toes are small but they do a lot!!!!**

-this has resulted in tons of missed work

-physical therapy just to learn how to walk properly again

-If he wants to play any sports or things like that,,,,, that is a whole other kind of therapy

-Billy will adjust, and he will live a pretty normal life, but it will never be “as if it never happened.”

-it will never be fixed

-there will always be differences

**-The best solution would have been to avoid it all together.**

-These next few weeks are about avoiding what can be avoided so that we have less to “Cope with” later.

## **-Reality of Life: Direction determines destination.**

-Realities are simply what is.

-whether we agree or not

-whether we recognize it or not

-whether we benefit or suffer from reality,,,, IT JUST IS

-If you live in opposition or ignorance of reality, reality will end up breaking you.

-you don't break reality, it breaks you

*-whether I recognize gravity or not, the second I lean too far back in a chair that reality will break me....*

**-even if I don't believe in it,, even if I disagree with it,,,,, I will be TOES UP**

-We either leverage reality for our benefit or we ignore reality to our demise.

*-This KNIFE is SHARP::::* if I live in observance of this reality then the sharpness of this knife can be of GREAT BENEFIT,,,, (you you believe the infomercials I can cut pennies in half,,, I can cut bricks,,, and then cut Tomatoes so thin you can read through them)

*-If I live in ignorance or opposition to the reality of the sharpness of this knife, it can do me and others GREAT HARM*

**-Direction determines destination.** That is reality and we can either benefit from that reality or we can end up with scarred up hands.

## **Jesus offered a Path to Follow rather than Solutions to Problems.**

-Matthew 7:24-29 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**-Jesus, the author of life, offered his instruction as a direction for us to follow.**

-that is why it said he taught like he had authority,,,, because he was the Author.....

-Jesus firmly grasps this Reality because he Shaped and set it in motion....

-Let me explain Jesus' metaphor:

**-the key to a solid house is a solid foundation**,,, today, we dig down and build a solid concrete foundation

*-before the age of excavators and concrete the process was different:*

**-it was not about creating a solid foundation, it was about finding one**

-you would search an area where you wanted to build to find the greatest exposed rock formation that you could build on top of

-when the rainy season came there were great changes to the dirt and sand deposits.... (enough rain could move the soft soils significantly)

-If you did not find enough exposed bedrock then portions of your house were on the rock and portions on dirt and you were subject to shifting,,,, breaking,,,, possibly failure

-As the one who created everything, Jesus is telling us where the solid dependable bedrock of life is.

*-it is HIS TEACHINGS,,, he says if we build life on top of obedience to those teachings then we will have a solid foundation that will withstand WHATEVER comes our way*

-Jesus offers us the Exposed Bedrock of Life.

**-his teaching gives us reality**

-we can BE WISE and build on it and benefit GREATLY

-or we can be foolish ignoring reality to our demise

**-We want a Push Button Problem Solver, but God offers forgiveness and a Path toward wholeness and peace.**

-we want to live out of sync with Reality and then ask God undo what we have done, **but that is rarely how it works**

*-as a kid I struggled with my weight and self esteem,,, I remember praying one time before pigging out something: "God Remove all the fat and calories from what I was about to eat"*

-As silly as that was, we do the same things all the time:

-we get into relationships we have no business in and then ask God to work out the mess our life turns into as a result....

-we stay in friendships that are black holes sucking craziness into our lives and then ask God to mitigate the craziness,,, rather than us remove the black hole

-we handle money in ways we know we shouldn't and then when it all comes to head we pray for a miracle

*-Out of sync with reality, then ask God...*

*-God forgives our sin, but a life of peace and wholeness is the result of adherence to Reality. (repeat)*

**-God offers a path to peace, not solutions for silliness**

*-There are of times God Mercifully intervenes and he miraculously saves us from situations we have created,, but those times are exceptions not the NORM*

*-God Plan is to give you a Path to Follow that creates peace.....*

*-Illustration: When you are lost in a car, you don't need a Solution,,, you need a Direction.*

-If you were shooting for South Carolina and you Hit Florida you have a problem

**-but there is no instant solution to your problem**

**-there is only a right direction**

**-If you change direction, your circumstances will eventually change.**

-Following is not an instant Problem solver, but it is a move TOWARD PEACE AND WHOLENESS. (not instant fix but an immediate shift and beginnings of change)

-Life in a fallen world will never be easy or perfect but living in line with reality will always move things in the direction of greater Wholeness.

**-Teaching of Jesus (Directions toward Living in Line with Reality)**

- Let Your Light Shine by good deeds—Matthew 5:16
- Be Reconciled with the one you offended—Matthew 5:24–25
- Cut off the source of temptation—Matthew 5:29-30
- Say what you mean and mean what you say —Matthew 5:37
- Love Your Enemies—Matthew 5:44
- Don't lay up treasures on earth but in heaven—Matthew 6:19–20
- Live in Generosity, not in self seeking Greed - Luke 12:16-12
- Seek Above All God's Kingdom, and God will provide materially— Matthew 6:33
- Fear God, Not Man (be mindful of who you are performing for)—Matthew 10:26 and Matthew 10:28
- Go to Those Who Wrong You And Confront Their Wrong— Matthew 18:15
- Forgive Those Who Wrong You, even if they keep wronging you over and over—Matthew 18:21–22
- Stay Married—Matthew 19:6; 5:31-32
- In humility choose low positions, prefer others—Matthew 20:26–28
- Invite To Meals The Poor, the Lame, etc.—Luke 14:12–14
- Love Your Neighbor—Matthew 22:39
- Use the gifts and resources God has given you to produce spiritual fruit. (Matt. 25:29. & 13:12)
- Build other up spiritually—John 21:15–16
- Be baptized. Lead others to faith, and baptize them—Matthew 28:19
- Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.—John 13:34.

**-That list represents Jesus peeling back the topsoil to expose Bedrock reality to us.**

-moving from where we are into the direction those teachings, moves us toward greater wholeness and peace.

## **Foolish People Live Life as if it is Disconnected.**

-We sometimes live in such a way that things will only work out if everything goes perfectly.

- we will make it financially if there aren't medical emergencies or car repairs
- if I get a really good raise and nothing goes wrong then we can afford this house

-BUT, Reality doesn't work that way

-whether in relationships, jobs, health, money, child raising, friendships .... **LIFE IS FULL OF STORMS**

*-back to Jesus' metaphor:*

-A foolish person knows there are storms:

- they know those storms erode soil
- they know their house is built on soil
- they even know people who's homes have collapsed

**-but they do not draw the connecting lines between their choices and results**

-We blame the storms, and say that there was nothing we could have done.

-When you see people who's lives are marked by Peace and Wholeness they are **NOT LUCKY!**

- they have built their life on the bedrock
- if someone has a marriage you envy,,, they are just Lucky in Love
- they are following the path that produces that

-Foolish people don't connect the dots between their individual choices and the house those choices combine to build.

*-Men, you cannot come home from work, plant yourself on a couch, and zone out, while your wife tends to children, cooks dinner, cleans up the kitchen and does everything else,,,, DAY AFTER DAY and say "I want a happy marriage"*

**-to do that,,, assumes that the direction you are living in is disconnected from the destination you hope to arrive at**

*-Ladies we have to be mindful to build to last on our side of it also.....*

*-you cannot say "we want to get out of debt" and then go out to eat. Or redecorate then living room or buy a a new tv.*

**-to do those things assumes that the overall picture is somehow not made up of all those individual choices,,,**

*-the same goes with individual choices in friendships, on jobs,, and in our faith,,,,, we cannot live in FLESH 24/7 neglecting our spirit and say “we want to grow closer to God”*

**-DIRECTION determines Destination.**

**-Direction is nothing more than a collection of seemingly unconnected individual choices.**

## **Closing / Application**

**-This message is NOT an invitation to Change something, to Stop something, or to Fix something.**

**-it is an INVITATION TO FOLLOW**

**-The author of life itself has laid out a path for us to Follow.**

**-Direction Determines Destination.**

**-Following the Path laid out by Jesus will not solve problems immediately but it will move us toward the destination we want.**

**-Don't be a fool, don't convince yourself that individual choices are somehow not connected to your overall direction.**

## **—Ground Hogs Day**

**-this guy got stuck in one day repeating it endlessly**

**-for a while he goofed around all kinds of ways**

**-then he got depressed and kept trying to kill himself**

**-THEN HE FINALLY understood,,,,,**

**-he had been given the chance to live today over and over again until he finally lived it the right way**

**-When he finally lived today for all it was worth, the tomorrow he wanted came.**

**-The Tomorrows we want:**

**-the marriage. -the financial freedom. -the health**

**-the job. -friendships. -kids. -life of emotional, spiritual peace and health**

**-Those things are not Magic. -They are not Luck.**

**-Correct beliefs are important, but Jesus didn't just invite us to believe, but to FOLLOW.**

**—They are destinations. Direction Determines Destination.**

-Follow the Path Jesus gives and you will reach a destination of Greater Joy, Peace, Blessing and Wholeness than you can currently even imagine.