

Beginners Guide to Predicting your Future pt. 2: Good Intentions

*-Last week we established the central Principle or REALITY that we will expand on all this month “**Direction Determines Destination**”*

*-where you are headed is much more important than where you are at the moment.....
-positive or negative.....*

-We are still Anchored in Matthew 7 where Jesus told a parable about a Wise and Foolish Builder

-in that passage Jesus tells us his Teaching is a Direction for us to Follow

-If we Follow that direction, we are Wise and our lives will be Blessed

-Whether or Not we Follow that Direction Determines So Much

-We will not refer Directly to that Passage Today but know that we are Expanding on the idea and concepts found there.

Intro: The Art of Getting Lost

-when I was 17 years old I hung out a lot with a friend named Joe who was really bad for my life,,,,, most of the trouble I got in, involved Joe

-anyway he told me about a party one Friday night, so we went

-I didn't know anybody there,,,,, and Joe just knew 1 or 2 of the girls

-as tended to happen a lot, my friend got into a bit of fight with one of the guys at this party and as I was about to get involved,,, the girls we knew begged us to leave

-So I tracked down everyone who rode with me in a really awkward guided tour of the house.....

*-I finally got everyone in my car and was about to leave and noticed the guys were now shouting things at me **as if they won that exchange***

-I couldn't leave with them thinking they got the upper hand...

*-so I threw my car into reverse and roared back into the front lawn of the house and proceeded to **GENEROUSLY** give them a **LAWN JOB***

-then I had to hurry away before all these guys got into their cars and.....

*-as I raced through this small suburban subdivision I **COULDN'T FIND MY WAY OUT***

*-I kept finding myself in cul-desacs and turning around going down other streets,,, getting more frantic with every wrong turn,,, I figured any minute I would end up **back in front of that poor girls house***

-I wanted OUT,,, but the roads that I was on did NOT LEAD OUT

-I was lost. (Arguably in more ways than one...)

-As you can tell I come from a very sophisticated segment of society :)

-The point I am trying to make isn't how big of hoosier I was...

-I want to tell you a few things I have come to know about getting Lost.

-We don't get lost on Purpose. (in cars or in life)

-nobody decides "I want to become an addict" *but right now studies say that 1 in 10 people in America are living with some form of drug addiction*

-when we are young and in love nobody decides that they want to irreparably damage their relationship,,,, but culture wide half of marriages end in divorce

-nobody decides that they want to be a BITTER ANGRY COMBATIVE person yet many will end up there

-We are lost before we know it.

-if you knew lostness was coming you could always avoid it right at the moment

-but when you are lost in a car,,, it just happens,,,, you think you know where you are and what is next,,, then after a period subtly growing disorientation ,,,, you realize,,,

this isn't right,,, I don't know where I am,,, or where I went wrong

-We wind up where the road we are on ends up.

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-wherever you wanted to go originally, once you are lost,,,, your options are limited

-I wanted out of that subdivision, but I actually had to be on a Road that lead there.

-Intentions often have little impact on outcomes.

-where I wanted those roads to take me had nothing to do with where they actually were taking me

-the trick to getting out would have been knowing ahead of time where the roads actually led,,,, then choosing the roads that led where I wanted to be.

-That is what we have been talking about:

Direction Determines Destination

-Not just GEOGRAPHICALLY, but all the other "ALLY'S" as well

-Financially

-Relationally

-Spiritually

-Morally.

-Professionally

-MarriageALLY

-If someone asked you where you INTEND to be in any of these areas in 5 or 10 years you would have some idea of what you want.

-be in a good job with opportunity for advancement....

- own your own home,,,,, be Out of Debt,, or saving for retirement
- get this or that area of my personal life BACK ON TRACK
- want to be closer to God,,,,, be a leader in the church ,,
- I want to have a few really valuable friendships that will go with me through life
- I want to eliminate the current Tension or Discontent in my marriage,,, *maybe your marriage goal is to become that cialis commercial couple with the **twin bathtubs**.....*

-The problem: There is often a disconnect between what we intend and the Direction our lives are actually moving in.

*-Like when we say “I want to marry a Christian, someone who will serve God side by side with me,,,,, but **until I meet that person** I will date others, I just wont get serious”*

-Like the parent who says “I want our family to be close, but then they are always saying yes to extra projects,,, extra trips,,,,, they intend to be close,,,,, but they are on a road that leads someplace else

-Like the Grandparent who intends to be around to REALLY INVEST in their grandkids, but for now does it matter if I eat too much,, or drink too much,, or don't really exercise enough

-or the parents who say “It really is important to us that our kids grow up involved in the church, not just attend but have significant friendships with people of faith,, and as SOON as THINGS CALM down we are going to make that happen

-These are all examples of people who have an intention that does not line up with their current direction.

-Most of us can relate to the Struggle of having Intentions that don't line up with our Direction.

-in one area of life or more.....

-One thing we want to be clear about is that “Whatever our Intention: We can only Wind Up where the Road we are on Ends Up.”

—An ancient Jewish king named Solomon wrote a parable about this concept in the book of Proverbs.

-Solomon is the Narrator, telling an age old story, and in this Example it happens to Include a *Seductive Woman* and a *Naive Young Man*

-Dont get so stuck in the details of THIS story that you make it all about Seduction or even the particular gender roles in this seduction

-lets keep in mind the ideas of INTENTION and DIRECTION

-Proverbs 7:6-27 At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. 7 I saw among the **simple**, I noticed among the young men, a youth who **had no sense**.

8 He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the **direction** of her house. 9 at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. 10 Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with **crafty intent**.

-The young man who is the focal point of this parable does not seem to have any Ill Intent.

-intent aside, he is moving in a direction that puts him in proximity to trouble

11 (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; 12 now in the **street**, now in the **squares**, at every **corner** she lurks.). 13 She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: 14 "Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home.

15 So I came out to **meet you**; I **looked for you** and have **found you**!

-He is thinking "i wouldn't normally get involved in a situation like this, but,, THIS IS special,,, this is a UNIQUE SITUATION,,, she loves me.....

-Most dangerous sentence the world: I normally wouldn't do this **BUT..... This is different,,, You don't understand....**

16 I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18 Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning, let's enjoy ourselves with love!

-2 things I want to point out here:

-no such thing as Gourmet Sin: we are sometimes fooled into believing that others are enjoying their sin to degrees we are not,,, that if we just **FIGURE OUT HOW TO "GET ALL OF THE JUICE FROM THAT ORANGE"** then it will all be worth it

-this wasn't just "come inside, we are going to have fun". It was "you have never experienced ANYTHING like this..."

-Choices Inconsistent with our direction can seem fun, if we Zoom in and ignore the rest of the story.

-Problem with that: **We cannot surgically separate the Fun from the Fallout**

-What this young man is focusing in on, will probably be fun.....

-but there is a truck load of Fallout that is guaranteed to come with this

-Galatians 6:7 NLT Do not be misled you cannot mock the justice of God, you will always harvest what you plant.

-This is not necessarily warning that God judges our acts.

-God created a Cause and Effect world,,, the Mockery of God would be in us thinking that we will somehow be an exception to laws of Nature that God set in motion

-every action is more like Seed planted,,, there is progressive flow of events that is inextricably linked,,, and it is coming

-Zooming in on the the fun can fool us into forgetting about the fallout.

19 My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. 20 He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.”

-By the time the husband returns I will be long gone and “on with my life”
-*we think that way,,, **we will only carry this “to a point” before any of the negative consequences come we will have stopped.....***

21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.

-Astray means he thinks he is headed one place but he is headed another.

22 All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose. 23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

-As the Narrator says this, cant you just see the young man shrugging with that skeptical look.... *“come on **aren’t you being a little dramatic**, I am not stupid I would leave long before things got to that place”*

24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.

25 Do not let your heart turn to her **ways** or stray into her **paths**. 26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng.

-This started as just an activity, but his heart is being **turned to a PATH**.

-You are not stronger or better than all the others who have crashed and burned going this same way. **(that is what the narrator is saying)**

-Your situation is not unique, your story will not be different.

-Those other people were not just idiots.

-Nobody sets out with the Intention to Lose.

-Regardless of intention, many people Lose every year.

-in 2017 in the U.S. 88,894 people died from drug overdoses

-none of them set that as their destination

-in 2017 about 800,000 people filed for bankruptcy

-none of them set that as their destination

-46% of Americans report feeling lonely like they don’t have the relationships they need

-none of them set that as a destination

-Many of the people those statistics represent are smarter than you.

-many are stronger. -many thought they had life figured out

-“her slain are a mighty throng”

-Those people all thought they would they would only stay a little while and then they would move back toward their destination.

-It is sneaky and subtle but Diversions often become Destinations.

27 Her house is a **highway to the grave**, leading down to the chambers of death.

-This is because direction determines destination.

-He didn't mean to stay here,,,,,, this was supposed to be a one time thing

-This was a moment,,,,,, a season,,,,,, this was “experimentation”

-but now he is not just on a path,,, he is on a highway

-Here is why we get so messed up.

-we think we are choosing each step

-We think that when we arrive at a step where it gets ugly we will stop.

-Truth: Life is always moving. Things are always progressing. You are not the only player in your game.

-back to the driving illustration,,, you may only intend to go a little way,,, but circumstances always involve a path and other people,,, what happens when you are ready to EASE OFF THE GAS,,, and another person in it with you reaches their foot over AND JAMS THE PEDAL TO THE FLOOR,,,, or what if the road you are on just doesn't have any exits at the point you intend to turn off.....

-When that happens you go sailing past your destination on to somewhere you never intended to be

-We are not guaranteed control over individual steps, only Direction.

-We often think something is going to be a short entertaining diversion, but it ends up being a destination.

-Solomon says “her house is a highway to the grave” once you merge on, things really take off and you just end up somewhere.

-raise your hand if you have ever found yourself in a place in life that you NEVER THOUGHT you would be..

-An activity became a Path,,, A Path became a Highway,,,, and suddenly THERE YOU WERE..

-How many people have permanently changed their Life's Destination thinking:

-it is just a season. -it is just a little fling

-i know it is not ideal, but I just need this right now

-I will get things on track later

-I know I am not really paying attention to my husband the way I did at first, but once the kids are a little older and life is easier,,, Then we Focus on our Relationship Again.

-Things that we do, thinking they are for a Season quickly become Standard.

Ok now we are ready to add onto our Principle,, our Reality from last week

-We have already established that Direction Determines Destination

-we are going go a litter further

Direction NOT INTENTION determines Destination.

-Closing:

-Dont be a victim of the Intention : Direction : Disconnect.

-Diversion Quickly become Destinations.

-If you want a picture of your future in any area of your life, simply look at where you are CURRENTLY HEADED.

-Story: Florida Highway ended up over the Everglade Swamps

-I went to college in Florida and one Sunday a Friend and I decided to go visit a DIFFERENT CHURCH

-It was about 45 minutes away, we had seen it before but never been to it

-We went the way we assumed was right

-We were on a highway that we knew went right past this church,,,,

-We passed an exit and shortly after we saw the church not to far from the side of the Highway

-we assumed we would get off at the next exit and find the church

-pretty quickly after passing the church, the highway turned into a bridge that went over a bunch of Everglade Swamps

- a sign that said "next exit 13 miles"

-That means we had to go 13 miles before we could turn around and another 13 miles back just to where we could see the church again,,, then we still had to exit and find our way there.

-We can only wind up where the road we are on, ends up.

-Direction not Intention Determines Destination