

Lessons through a windshield Part V

Detour



Jeremiah 29:11-14

Intro: What is the first thought that comes to your mind as you are traveling and you see a detour sign? Mine usually is, Oh what now.

So let's notice some things about detours that I trust will make us think next time we run into some of them.

I. Types of spiritual detours

A. Those detours of our own making which include

1. The detour into **sin**

This detours us around Isaiah 30:21 where God said, This is the way, walk ye in it.

Notice: that taking this detour also sends us around God's fellowship and victories and will run us right into guilt and frustration.

2. The detour of **selfish deeds**

This one will detour us around Philippians 2:3,4 When you are wrapped up in yourself, you are overdressed.

3. The detour of **fear**

This detour causes us to miss much of the potential God has for our lives. It detours us around the truth of II Timothy 1:7 that says *that God has not given us the spirit of fear.*

4. The detour of **disobedience**

It avoids the command of James. 4:17 which says, *Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

Disobedience is sin and sin detours us. How are we doing here? Are we getting detoured by being disobedient?

5. The detour of **worthlessness and inferiority**.

Many are detoured here because they spend all their time looking at how awful they view themselves as, instead of looking at how God views them.

Do you see yourself as the person God created and saved you to become? Or are you motoring around on this detour and missing the real action and blessing?

Romans 12:3 says, *we are not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.* Lets not get detoured by thinking less of ourselves than what God wants us to think either.

6. The detour of **pride**

There are some people, even Christians, who get detoured because they think they are great when they really aren't.

So we should avoid the detours of worthlessness and inferiority, and also the detour of pride.

T.S. But secondly, under types of detours, I want to look at

*B. Detours of God's **special planning** in a life*

1. Here I think of Israel and her times of exile. God had a marvelous plan for Israel. He wanted her to be free and to love him and let him protect her.

2. But Israel's history was one of unfaithfulness. So God sometimes allowed her to be detoured from his very best.

3. This was usually in the form of captivity or exile under the tyranny of another nation. *Not for her destruction but rather so that she would come to her senses and return to the Lord.*

This is the very message of Jer. 29:11-14. God wanted Israel's good. Some of the detours in our lives are like that. **God doesn't do them to destroy us but to draw us back to the narrow road which is ultimately for our good.**

4. Then there was Joshua, Israel, and Jericho. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous in Chpt. 1:6

In Chpt. 3 Joshua had told the people V 5 consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

5. With that thought in mind and with 40,000 men who were ready for battle, it seems like they should have just marched right in and wiped Jericho out.

6. But it seems God used a marching detour of several days. But what seemed to like a detour was actually planned by God and we read of the results in 6:20 where the walls fell.

7. I wonder how many walls around us, God wants to have fall but, we attack head on instead of recognizing that if the detour is planned by God, the results will still ultimately be victory

Well some of the detours may be of our own making, but some of may also be of God's

planning in our lives. Next, I would like to touch briefly on

II. What detours may indicate First they may indicate

A. A danger to be avoided

1. It may be that a bridge is bad or a road washed out or some other problem we cannot see.
2. If we disregard the signs we could end up in a life threatening situation or else be detained much longer than if we had heeded the sign.
3. The same thing goes for our spiritual lives. Lets be alert to God's detour signs. It will help us avoid possible trouble.

But secondly, notice that

B. Progress may actually already be being made but not necessarily observed.

1. Detours reroute you and you usually never really catch sight of the object you are going around.
2. When this happens, progress can be made on the project but it is not necessarily observable as one drives the detour.
3. It is sort of like that in us. God is doing a work in our lives so that when we finally get around the detour, we will be more effective.
4. So next time you find your plans detoured, rather than get upset, stop and remember progress is being made in your life even if you don't see it.

Well I want to move a long and look at one last point

III. Lessons we learn from some of the detours in the lives of a couple of bible characters. First,

A. Moses

1. He didn't just start being a leader. His life can actually be divided into 3 forty year segments, but it was the 40 year segment in the desert or what seems an apparent detour that was most impressive.
2. It was on this detour that he found his wife, he got his call, and it was from this detour that he returned to lead Israel and leave his mark in history.

How about your detour? Does it seem like you are in a desert place?

B. Jonah

1. His detour led through the deep blue sea. It was here that he learned the importance of obedience and he saw the greatness of God's forgiveness.
2. What are we learning on some of the detours we find ourselves traveling?

Finally, I think of

C. The Apostle Paul

1. He was on his way to Ephesus but was detoured to Philippi. One of their converts there was a woman named Lydia who later on, turned out to be a faithful worker for the Lord.

2. What if on one of the seeming detours in your life you happened to lead a person to the Lord and that person was the last one to accept Christ before Jesus could come back to earth again? The detour would have been worth it wouldn't it?

We must admit that we don't like detours but then we must also admit that they may not all be bad. Detours are really affected by our outlook on them. How do you see the detours that come into your life?

The Scottish pastor and author George Matheson said

"There are times when I get work to do, the good of which I cannot see. Sometimes --there is put into my hands a trumpet when I think it should be a sword. Sometimes I am sent on a long circuitous march when I am expecting to be retained for the assault. These moments are very hard for me. Help me at such moments, O Lord, to say, one step enough for me."

If some detours come into our lives this week think about this sign and look expectantly for what God may have in store.

In closing, You haven't been detoured around God's salvation have you? If you have you might just want to look a few more lines further and find some good news.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can

help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)