

Disconnected Destiny • Teaching Notes

"Most of the time, things don't happen all at once!" Things are built over time. It takes a while to build a house because it's piece by piece. It took a while for Noah to construct the ark. It was piece by piece and took decades. When someone has invested properly and is now wealthy, you also have to understand that it took a while to get there. It was a continual investment. And the same is true on the downside! On the negative side. Chances are pretty good that you didn't just FALL into the hole that you are in overnight! No, there have been many, many things along the way, over a period of time, that have led to the trouble that now exists. It's progressive.

James 1:12-15 "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

When things go wrong, it's a process!

Usually the first step in things going wrong is simply a . . .

Diversion or Distraction This is point #1

I like a good old combat movie! There's always a scene where one army is about to break into the enemy's base, and they are all hiding in the bushes out front. Then one of the guys has to throw a rock way off to the side and make some noise over there. This is a Diversion or Distraction. This is when something gets your attention, and you choose to take your eyes off what God has you doing. This is where the grass starts looking greener on the other side. This is where or some thing or someone starts looking better to you than what you currently have. Something got your attention, or sparked your Curiosity. This is dangerous Ground. This is where it actually all begins, right here!

Lots of different things can distract you, and you can get out of balance in a hurry! You can actually get to the point where you just think too much about things! I know I sure did.

We live in a world that is filled with distractions. Distractions draw our focus away from God and consume us with the things of this world. In the parable of the sower, Jesus warns us about the dangers of allowing the cares of this world to choke out the Word of God.

Just simply Stay focused on the Word of God as your Main Source, and you will will be fine!

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

This is the first step to getting off track! Simple Distraction!

Right after you get distracted, then comes the . . .

Division This is point #2

Can't you just see the enemy guard hearing that distraction over there, and then leaving his post to go investigate it? That's exactly the way this works! When you leave what God has you doing to go investigate something else. A separation begins.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:33 that you should not be deceived, Bad company corrupts good morals. The NKJV says Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

This is where a wedge starts coming between you and God's plan for you. It makes a difference who you hang out with! It makes a difference which direction you go, and it makes a difference which influences you let into your life. Things, people, and situations can take you where you want to go, where God designed for you to go, OR they can keep you from getting there. You must choose wisely! I'm not here today to destroy your fun; I am here to help you get to the place you know in your heart you really want to go!

The next step is . . .

Delusion This is point #3

When you begin to believe that this new thing you discovered, may be better than what you were originally doing for God.

The Bible still says in Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. that he who began a good work in you will complete it!" Not start it over again 47 times because he got it wrong the first time!

At some point in your life, you need to finish something that God has given you to start. You need to stick with something! There are a lot of people who can start things, but very few people that actually follow through and finish something. So, why is it that it seems hard to finish things sometimes? Well, one of the reasons is it requires a real commitment to finish something. You have to take a good look at yourself and decide whether you are a really committed person or not. How badly do you want to do and accomplish and finish the things God has put in your heart to do. When it gets a little tough, when it gets a little harder, do you just want to give up on that and ask God to show you a new thing? No, This is where a real commitment comes in. Did you know that consistency ultimately brings stability? One of the steps in getting off track is sometimes just not being willing to continue to do the last thing that you knew you were supposed to do. You remember that LAST WORD from God that you got? What happened to that last thing? That thing you were so sure God told you? That latest revelation! How come you're not still doing that? What happened? Did God change? No! See, Delusion occurs when we believe something that is not true or distort the truth to fit our own desires.

The problem is, consistency and commitment don't sound real exciting.

Nobody seems to be throwing a party, for "consistency!" When you've got a choice between being consistent with something or running off to the latest, coolest-looking thing, most people will choose the latest cool thing. Because it looks exciting! It looks fun! But, that does not necessarily get you any closer to your finish line. Because God's Way is not just the cool way, it's the obedient way! And that is no fun to hear, unless you understand the great benefits to faithfulness.

The Bible still says in John 8:31-32 that if you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

Then comes . . .

Deception This is point #4

Deception is when you have decided that the new thing is better, and you abandon what God had you doing originally.

What are you allowing to dominate your destiny? It's OK to listen to some news and find out what's going on in the world, but if you are dominated by the news, your Christian experience will be diluted, ineffective, and frankly, off track!

It's great to have fun , but if fun, dominates you completely, and all you do is have fun, than you have found yet another way to set your belief system aside, and to be motivated by something that absolutely does not have your best interest at heart. That's called being Out of Balance!

It's OK to exercise, but if your entire focus is on your physical well-being, to the neglect of your spiritual well-being, you will be the strongest, most fit, muscular, and spiritually inaccurate person around!

We're supposed to have fun, we are built to have fun. But it is family fun, fellowship fun, Godly fun, not unrighteous, carnal, sin fun. The Bible actually says that there is pleasure in sin for a season. The problem is, the season comes to an end and you are left hurting inside. All Because Sin and wrong doing will take you to a place you never intended to go, it will keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and it will cost you more than you can pay! It's just a hurtful time. A harmful time, because it was never in line with anything that God was doing to start with.

You cannot constantly bypass the things of the Spirit of God, and still hope to reap the benefits of the Spirit of God! That's not the way it works.

So, if I say to you, that I would rather you not do drugs, or drink, or sleep in the wrong bed, it's not because I don't want you having fun or enjoying your life. It's because I know ahead of time that those things will impair you, and that they will ultimately hold you back, And put a lid on your life that is very difficult to ever bust through. When I say to you that I would rather you not be engaged in stupid, contradictory, or unscrupulous activity, it's not because I don't think you're strong enough to handle it, It's because doing those things will shorten your reaction time, and it's completely unpredictable whether or not you'll be able to stop in time. It's because doing those things could ruin your life, and your families life, and could make an impact on generations to come. You see, it's not just about your pleasure, it's also about your character and your legacy. This whole thing is going somewhere, this whole thing means something, and you are building right now what future generations will build upon. This is important. That's what deception is all about . . . and to disregard it is dangerous. But, the Good News is that you can learn to spot it ahead of time, and not fall into that trap!

The next step is . . .

Delay This is point #5

When your choice to move away from God's original plan for you, has now resulted in a holding pattern, causing a delay. I mean, God wants you to be on track, he paid a price for you to be on track,

to do, and to complete the perfect will of God in your life, but if you choose to, you are the one that walks away.

This can be a confusing time. You keep praying to an invisible God to do impossible things, but you feel like you're free-falling. It's not working!

This world system will constantly bombard you with the negative. Constantly remind you of your past. Constantly provide another means of relief for you that's not based in Jesus Christ. There will always be another drink, another pill, another person. All of those things are only quick fixes and minor substitutes for the real love of God. I'm telling you, once you experience the true Living God and the full-blown love of Christ, you won't need any other vices to satisfy you. The question is, can you be completely satisfied with Jesus Christ alone? Or do you still have to supplement something else on top of your relationship with Christ, in order to be satisfied, to be happy, to be content?

Delay can be rough! You see, you can get to the point that if you're not satisfied with Christ alone, you will feel like you need to add to it and help Him out. We need to be patient and let Him work His work inside of us!

Sometimes we can feel like we need to help God out and Speed things along. His plan isn't working fast enough for us. Watch it! It's a trap! It's a trick!

And Finally, you are

Disconnected This is point #6

Have you ever heard this: "You have reached a number that has been disconnected or is no longer in service." OR, When you're talking on your cell phone and you go through a bad reception area, you can be, what? Disconnected!

It's distance . . . it's disconnected. This is when you completely abandon God's plan for you, and choose to walk a different path altogether. Don't let this world's system identify you and put a cap on you, and limit you. At the disconnected point you have disqualified yourself. You are who God says you are, and you can do what God says you can do, regardless of what any other voice says! He knows what is in a man.

Other people will define you by what they can see with their physical eyes, your limitations, your height, your weight, your education. But God never defines anyone by what he can see with a physical eye, he always calls you to do supernatural things, things that are beyond your normal physical capabilities. You see, the entire time you were trying to get a raise on the job, God has in mind for you to own the company! He thinks bigger! He sees bigger!

Have a positive outlook! Think the best. Instead of assuming that it won't work, that you won't be able to do it, that you won't have enough money, that there won't be enough time, that you're too old, that you're too young, but you're too skinny, that you're too fat, how about reversing the whole process? How about assuming that you will make it, that you will be able to do it, that you will have enough money that there will be enough time, that you're not too old, that you're not too young that you're not too skinny and you're not too fat? How about that?

You cannot take the next step toward anything until you take the first step. There will always be a first step! The real question is when are you going to take the first step? You may have to redefine your destiny!

What I'm talking about here is taking the truth of the Word of God, and mixing it, or diluting it with just a little poison. You know that you would not knowingly drink a glass of water if you also knew it had just a little bit of poison in it. So why in the world would you live a double standard life that incorporates the same principles? In the end, It's actually bad for you.

Here is one of the big problems. If you do not learn to rightly divide the word of truth, you can walk right into deception, thinking that it's OK to accept some of the world's poison into a holy life. That's not right, that's not Bible. Just stay with what the Bible says!

So, Why this message?

Because your destiny is too important to spend it with people that are pulling you in the wrong direction. People who are influencing you the wrong way. People that are not challenging you to do better. Inspiring you? Pushing you forward? You don't have time to waste with people and situations that bring out the worst in you. Life is flying by! We don't get a do over, this is it! There is only one life, and it will soon be past, and only what's done for Christ will last!

Some of you want to do the right thing, to break free from negativity once and for all, but you still have so many questions. You feel like it's hard for you to break free! You might be thinking how could I ever break free from the influences of negative people around me? "What if I hurt their feelings?" Well, What if you miss your destiny? What if they help disconnect you? What if that person or situation keeps you from becoming who you were created to be? Other people may be ok with mediocrity, compromise, and barely getting by in life. But that's not who you are! You have the Holy One living on the inside of you! Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world! God has big plans for you! You weren't created to live with addictions, dysfunction, lack, and struggle all your life. You were created to stand out. To be a cut above. To be Salt and Light! So do your part, and distinguish yourself. Be willing to do what others won't do.

Yes, it will take discipline. Yes, you have to say no to carnal desires. But the pain of that discipline is less than the pain of regret.

It's hard to bite your tongue and not say what you feel, but that pain is less than the pain of having someone you love walk away from you because of it.

It's hard to stay away from things that are bad for you, the things that are not good for you, but that pain is less than the pain of not being healthy.

It's hard to break away from a friend that's pulling you down, but that pain is less than not reaching your dreams.

One of the saddest things would be to come to the end of your life and wonder what you could have become. What if I wouldn't have let those people talk me out of my miracle? What if I would've broken away from those who were causing me to compromise?

What if I would've taken that step of faith in my career, and not played it safe all the time? All the big "What ifs!"

You don't have to wonder, you can start right now!

It is not too late to become who God created you to be! The question is, do you want it bad enough? Stir up your passion! Make this decision, I am not going to live complacent, accepting mediocrity, not just passive. I'm going to pursue what God put in my heart! I'm going to take steps to grow! I'm going

to come up higher in my relationships. Your destiny is too important to spend it with people that are not making you better.

So, how do you get back on track?

You Make A Decision! This is point #7

You simply choose to Reconnect! It's an internal decision! You get to decide to turn things around in your life.

You just need to shake yourself a little bit, and put your faith back on. It's going to be Ok, and you are going to make it! In fact the Bible says that God always causes us to triumph in the Lord Jesus Christ. You need to get your head up, get your chin up, and realize God's not going to leave you were you are right now, because he's got great plans for you. His idea for your future is a lot better than yours. He's a big God and he can do big things. So maybe it doesn't feel real good right now. That's OK, you're not supposed to walk by your earthly, carnal feelings and emotions anyway. You're supposed to walk by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I'm telling you that you can do great things, and you can achieve every single thing that God is put in your heart to achieve, no matter how big it looks. God's got big plans for you. You might say little old me? Well again, guess what, Little is much when God is in it. You've got a big God, and you need to make big plans.

- Start making right choices.
- But, You have not gone so far that God cannot help you!
- Your Best Days Are Yet To Come!
- The odds are stacked in your favor.
- You have an unfair advantage.
- Thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph and win!
- You can do all things through Christ.
- Don't let negative become normal.

You can set new standards for your generation and the generations to come. Don't let your mind be conditioned to the worlds ways! Don't let the enemy or anyone else fill your mind with negativity and tell you that you can't, or that you won't or that you're not good enough or strong enough or have enough money. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. It's time for you to blow the lid off the things in your life and to reach for something higher than where you are right now.

People don't determine your destiny, God does.