



The Path Principle
Proverbs 7:6-27
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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Idea: Direction, not intention, determines destination. You win or lose by the path you choose. It is not where you are that is the issue; it is where you are headed.

There is often a disconnect between where we want to end up and the path we choose.

Introduction:

Have you ever been lost? There are three things that are always true about being lost:

1. People who are lost never get lost on purpose.
2. You are lost before you know you are lost. You are never aware that you are getting lost.
3. You always end up where the road you are on takes you.

Where you intended to end up is irrelevant. Saying, “But this isn’t where I want to be” doesn’t help.

If you are on the wrong road, it doesn’t matter what you believe, what you hope, what you pray, what you dream, or what you thought. You’re still lost.

The paths we choose impact us more than our intentions or our motivations.

(Read Proverbs 7:6-23)

The Principle of the Path: Direction Determines Destination

You will always end up where the path you are on takes you.

In the world of behaviors, habits, and lifestyles, we lose sight of this.
People wake up far from where they intended to be.

The Principle of the Path: Every Path has a Predetermined Destination

“I want” doesn’t get you anywhere. The path you choose to walk down determines your destination.

Direction Determines Destination

Just like the naïve guy in the story, we become enamored with what’s on a path and ignore the fact that we are on the wrong path.

There’s always something on the wrong path that offers an immediate fix or thrill.

There’s always something on the wrong path that has a strong emotional appeal.

Conclusion:

Direction, not dreams or intentions, determines destination.

We all have our feet on a path; we are all walking in a direction; we will all end up where our chosen paths take us (financially, morally, relationally, ethically, spiritually, in our marriages, careers, health).

If you continue on your current course, where will you end up?

Where you are headed is more important than where you are.

Has anyone tried to warn you lately? Your conscience? Do you know anyone who has walked your path and ended up where you want to be relationally?

The issue is not what or who is on the path, but where is the path headed?

Nobody gets around the principle of the path. You will eventually end up where the path you are on is taking you.

Direction determines destination.

NEXT STEPS:

NEXT WEEK-Destinations: Looking Ahead

When you see trouble coming, don't ignore it. Do something. A misstep will result in a mishap, regardless of the fact that you were mistaken.

We've all ended up places we never intended to be--where life was complicated and there were seemingly no good options. Looking back we saw the warning signs, but we just chose to ignore them. It doesn't have to be that way. By looking back at an old wise saying, we will learn to look ahead and avoid the danger that lies in wait for us down the road.

- ☐ **Memorize: Proverbs 7:1.**
- ☐ **Ponder: If you continue on your current course, where will you end up?**
- ☐ **Do you need a different path?**
- ☐ **Return next week for Destinations, Part 2: Looking Ahead.**