

Finding The Will Of God: The Detour Sign Series

August 9, 2023

Scripture: Philippians 1:8-15

8. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

9. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

10. That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

11. Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

12. But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13. So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

14. And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

Summary: This signpost is one of the hardest for us to accept but as I have studied I have found it to one of the most important.

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None of us really like detours, when we want to get somewhere, we want to get there, and we don't want to be bothered with all of this detour stuff.

And something else I have found out, we usually are more upset when we are traveling in new territory and the detour sign appears right over the hill.

We are just not prepared for this kind of delay.

We don't like trouble, we don't like our plans messed up, and we don't like annoying inconvenience.

But how many of us would like to run up on a washed out bridge or a dead end road? So the detours are there for our protection.

Now what about the detours of life? That is what we are going to talk about this evening.

What happens when we are moving along in life and all of a sudden God puts up a detour sign? Are they there to annoy us to inconvenience us or are they there for God to provide and to protect us.

God speaks to us if you will, through our circumstances and one of the circumstances of life you and I can expect is the DETOUR sign.

Are there any detour signs in your life?

Are you on a detour right now?

I want us to look at some truths about detours this evening that may help us when we top the hill of life and there is this sign that says detour one mile ahead. It may help us to accept these detours a little better.

1. GOD HAS A DEVINE DESIGN FOR DETOURS.

Just that statement alone should encourage us but somehow we don't seem to get it.

You see when God sends down a detour it is His design, His will, so we should be thinking, His will is so much better for me than mine, it makes NO SENSE to get all aggravated and bothered with this detour.

But you know and I know that does not happen often so, let's look at the Devine Design of detours.

a. Phil.1: 12-14;

12. But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13. o that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

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HE USES PRISONS; THEY ARE progressive not preventive;

In this account we see Paul saying the detour he encountered was for progress not to prevent him from doing something he wanted to do. Or going somewhere he wanted to go.

Where was he? Prison; can prison be a divine design? Absolutely.

I can even trust him in this kind of circumstance.

These prisons were not anything you would want to happen to you but when it did he said this is ok because progress is being made here. He did not look at this prison as God wanting to prevent him from something.

How do you look at your detour? Are you ok with it or are you thinking he is just trying to keep me from what I want to do.

God's design for these detours are for progress for us for His work in and through us so why not let him use it for that?

Paul did not want to be in prison but he learned once he got there, God had a purpose. Progress? What progress? Paul wrote four letters while he was imprisoned. It appears he also wrote 2Tim. and possibly other letters that WE know nothing about. That is progress.

Now what about you are? Have you taking a pen in your hand so to speak or are you kicking against this detour?

b. He also uses persecutions; Acts 1:8; “the remotest part of the earth” how is he going to get them there? Are they just going to pick up and leave? No if you will read acts very carefully, God used persecutions to take them to where he wanted them to go.

God’s design for detours is for progress, and he wanted to progress the gospel so he used persecution to do it.

Some of the detours we are on bring this kind of stuff. None of us like it but that is part of the trip walking in God’s will.

c. God’s detours also are paths that have open and closed doors; often times in detours we get confused; But God will provide open and closed doors to get us where he wants us, if we are paying attention and being sensitive to Him.

1 Cor. 16:8-9;

8But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.

9For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and *there are* many adversaries.

What was the original desire here? What detoured him? The open door;

Acts 16:6-10;

6. Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

8. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

What kept Paul from preaching in Galatia and Phygia? Why did they not travel? The door closed; what happened? A vision and the rest is history.

God wants us to follow Him even more than we do. He is able to redirect us to detour us to get us where he really wants us and sometimes he uses prisons, persecutions, and paths that have open and closed doors.

2. The second truth about detours; THERE ARE SOME GREAT AND PRESENT DANGERS WHEN IT COMES TO DETOURS.

a. The presence of the enemy; Matt.4:10;

10. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

always this danger; Jesus is in the wilderness, he is in here because of the Will of God; note how the devil opens a door for Jesus.

a. V3;stones into bread; what a door

3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

b. V6-7 test Him instead of trust Him

6. And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

c. V8-11; opportunity instead of operating under the authority of God.

8. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9. And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Jesus closed every door with scripture; Note the result; there is always this great and present danger when it comes to detours, make sure the enemy is not opening a door for you to travel down a path that will take you away from the will of God.

b. 2Cor.2:12-13; letting an open door come before a pressing need;

12. Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

13. I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

Why had Paul gone to Troas? God had opened the door. What did he find there? Why did he not take advantage? No rest for his spirit. God wanted him to go to Corinthians to see how they were doing, so they took precedence over Troas.

To seek the Lord, we walk by faith not by sight. I have known some, who have had this dilemma, and they went the other way and it was costly.

c. Powerful feelings; and you know what I have to say here; our personal desires can really be a danger to us; we will either go on a detour ourselves because of feelings or ignore God's detours; "I feel Like" "I felt".

Let God lead then the emotions will catch up;

3. GOD IS SOVERIGN IN THE DETOURS; face it we don't like them; none of us like difficulties that detours bring to our life; But God is more interested in my character than my circumstances that are difficult.

He uses them to shape me in to depend; He would like for me to learn academically from the word but it usually vocationally by putting me into situations.

God is Sovereign and He is able to use the difficult circumstances turn them around and us them for good.

The story of Joseph; From pit to the panicle; Constantly through this whole process God was turning bad into Joseph's good; Only three things to remember about God's Sovereignty that we call detours:

1. Genesis 45:5; 7; 8; GOD SENT ME HERE

5. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

7. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8. So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

2. Genesis 50:19-20; I OUGHT TO BE HERE "I AM IN GOD'S PLACE"

19. And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God?

20. But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

God is able to accomplish His purpose through whatever life throws at us; Romans 8:28-29;

28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

29. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- 1. God's detours both protect and provide for us, there is no other way He can do this most of the time unless He carries us on a detour;**
- 2. The detours are like turtles on fences; where I am in life is not a result of my doing but God placed me here; what is going to be our response?**