

Road Closed

Destinations – week five

Romans 8:29-39 (NLT/NIV)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
– Galatians 6:7

The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.
– Pr 27:12

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3:5,6

Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you... Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil. – Proverbs 4:25-27

Attention – Direction - Destination

The subtitle of this book implies that there is always a way to get from where you are to where you want to be. BUT – we both know that's not always the case. We can retrace our steps, but we can't turn back the hands of the clock. We can make better choices 'next time,' but we can't go back do anything about the first time. Time, bad decisions, and experience put some destinations out of reach. There are dreams that can't come true. There are fortunes that are lost for good. There are relationships that can't be fully mended. There are scars we can't hide. There are chapters that can't be re-written. (A Stanley)

David Story

Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. – 2 Samuel 13:2

Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!" "No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me." But he refused to listen to her. He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her. – 2 Samuel 13:15-17

When King David heard all this, he was furious. – 2 Samuel 13:21

Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. ²⁴ But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king. – 2 Samuel 23,24

So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom. - 2 Samuel 14:33

The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. – 2 Sam 15:23

Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶ But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him." - 2 Samuel 15:25,26

I believe everybody has a Jerusalem experience at some point in his or her journey. There comes a time in each of our lives when we are forced to turn our backs on something we hoped for, prayed for, dreamed about, and perhaps planned for. These are usually good things. But a day comes when we are faced with the reality that they're not going to happen for us. We aren't going to get there. That dream isn't coming true. These are defining moments. For some they signal the end of faith. The disappointment crushes all hope that God can be counted on in the future. Some panic and do things that only make a bad situation worse. Others bargain with God, looking for a way to force his hand. But for many this is where faith begins. Their Jerusalem moment forces them to face the reality that they have no control over the future and that their only hope is in the Lord. (A Stanley)

But David continued up the *Mount of Olives*, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. – 2 Samuel 15:30

My Story...

Accept

Trust

Wait

Talking Points

1. At some point we all wake to the realization that some "it" we've hoped for is just not going to happen for us.
 - Describe a time when some "it" you hoped for—something big—just didn't happen. How did you respond?
 - Knowing what you know now, how do you wish you had responded?
2. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." – Luke 22:42
 - Why was the Father's will more important to Jesus than his own desired destination?
 - How can apply Christ's example in our own situation—when we realize that what we wanted is just not going to happen?