

“WHEN YOU CAN’T FIND YOUR WAY BACK”

Destinations, Part 6

March 14th, 2010

Reality: There are dreams that can’t and don’t come true

As you get older, you have more serious dreams that become expectations

The realization that some destinations are out of reach often elicits very powerful, and often dangerous emotions

Some of our greatest Regrets in life happen right after the realization of a dream that isn’t going to come true

To make matters worse it seems these things are happening for others

The emotions of these times often drive people away from God and church

We think, “If I can’t trust God, I’ll trust in my own ingenuity. I’ll fix this.”

The Example of David – Part 2

David was a “man’s man.” He realized there was a way to take the ambition of a king, the drive of a man, & to harness that with faith in God who could be trusted in the Real details of life

2 Samuel 13:2 (NLT) “Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill.”

David decides unwisely to do nothing after the rape of Tamar

After Amnon’s death David again does nothing

2 Samuel 14:33 (NIV) “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 15:12 (NIV) “And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom’s following kept on increasing.”

There are moments in our lives when we receive news that, in an instant, alters our future irreversibly

There are moments in time when you realize that dream isn’t coming true, and it’s too late to Rescue it from the chaos

2 Samuel 15:14 (NIV) “Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, ‘Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword.’”

David refuses to make a bad situation worse. He is in a lose-lose situation

2 Samuel 15:25 (NIV) “Then the king said to Zadok, ‘Take the ark of God back into the city.’”

In his time David had learned God can be trusted but not manipulated

When Our Dreams Don't Come True, The Response God Longs To Hear From Us

2 Samuel 15:25 (NIV) "... 'If I find favor in the Lord's eyes, He will bring me back and let me see it and His dwelling place again...'"

The lights may have gone out on David's future & his dreams, but not on his faith

David didn't tie his relationship with God to his personal dreams

David will take what comes as if it comes from the hands of God

2 Samuel 15:26 (NIV) "But if He [God] says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let Him do to me whatever seems good to Him."

Whatever God decides, David is open; either way David won't abandon his faith

It's God's will, not David's dream, that must be accomplished

Such "defining moments" will prayerfully force us to face the reality we have no control over the future and our only hope is in the Lord; some, however, walk away from God

The best response is to lean hard into your heavenly Father

The only other option is to run from the only one who can bring comfort when you need comfort the most

We must refuse to wrap our faith in God around our personal hopes and dreams

2 Samuel 15:26 (NIV) "... let Him do to me whatever seems good to Him."

Luke 22:42 (NIV) "[Jesus prayed] Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

When your dreams can't come true, that's not the time to get in control. That's the time you lean hardest into the only one that's ever been in control - God

If you do this, you may one day look back and say, it was in that season of disappointment that God became more real to me than He'd ever been before because for the first time in my life my personal dreams weren't so intertwined with my faith that I could finally see one for the other.

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will refuse to tie my faith in Christ to the fulfillment of "my" dreams
- I am willing to say as David & Christ did, "God, let Your will be done in my life, not mine."
- I will memorize Luke 22:42