

Life Lessons – Making it Live

Pastor David Welch | “Beware of Detours?” | Genesis 16 | February 5th /6th.2011

Detours

Have you ever gone on a road trip and gotten lost? The map was clear, but we just couldn't understand or decided to not follow it; so we ended up on a dirt road, car covered in mud, shocks vibrating out of control from the constant pressure of the ruts in the road. **Discuss: How life is like that?** God's word is our road map, but sometimes for whatever reason we choose to detour. **Discuss: reasons we choose a different path.** When we choose to deviate we end up soul covered in sin, life shaking us to the core from the constant pressure of the ruts we find ourselves hitting over and over. **Ask yourself what things in your life have caused you to deviate off the direct path and on to the dirt roads?** **Read: Jeremiah 29:11** **Today:** Know that the road map to life is found in God's word. Seek His directions by praying and reading the Bible. God can and will lead you in a new direction.

Wander or Wait

What do you do after you have asked God from directions? Do you wander or do you wait? Have you ever seen a baby take his or her first step? It is thought out not rushed. More times than not the child is looking to his or her parents to make sure they are going to catch them if they fall. **Read: Proverbs 16:9.** Where is your heart? Are you looking to God, our Father, to direct your path? **Discuss: ways we can look to God for direction.** It is about waiting; not wandering off the path. **Discuss: things that lead us down different paths.** Even when you get tired of waiting, WAIT. **How can we keep from getting tired in the wait?** It's about living by faith and not rushing in distrust. **Today:** Know that God's delays are not always God's denials. He will catch you if you stumble.

Still waiting...

Have you ever ask God to change your circumstance? We complain acting like children, telling God we want change now. Patience is great for someone else, just not when it comes to our own circumstance right? We want change now and if God doesn't give it to us, we will just...just what? Carve a new rut for ourselves? We pray and pray and ask but sometimes we feel like God isn't answering. Take a look at your prayers, are they selfish and demanding? Get me out of here now God...*please?* **Discuss: ways in which we are selfish in our prayers.** Or are you seeking God's wisdom while you are waiting. Asking Him how you can use this time to grow and to glorify Him. **Discuss what is it that you believe God wants you to use to teach others from your circumstance? Ask are you doing it?** **Read: Psalm 37:4, 7** **Today:** “Know that what is done in faith, glorifies God.

Commitment

What are you committed to today? Each day we are committed to something. It might be raising kids, going to work, eating healthier, buying that new house, getting well again; no matter what it is that we are committed to, it takes determination and obedience to direction. The same goes for our spiritual life. **Discuss ways to be more committed to your spiritual walk.** God's word gives us the directions to a greater life, **Psalm 32:8.** His directions are clear; they too require determination, commitment and perseverance. **How can we stay committed and persevere during the difficult moments or when we face persecution?** **Read: Genesis 15:1; Ecclesiastes 12:13** **Today:** Be committed to the things that glorify God, keeping His commandments, knowing He is your shield and a life with Him is the greatest reward of all.

Unexpected gifts

Have you ever received a gift in an unexpected way? We love getting gifts don't we? We giggle with excitement as we see the package with our name on it. We don't know what is inside we just know that it belongs to us. It is the same with the gifts that God gives us... only better. **Discuss some of the gifts God give us.** Sometimes those gifts come in the most unexpected way. Sometimes, they come wrapped not in pretty paper of blue, like a house on a hill; but in a paper box, with a tattered ribbon, as a broken life finds new hope. No roses in ribbons, but the dirty hands of a child holding dandelions saying “Look, I picked you a bouquet of sunshine!” **For Jonah it was a whale, David...a bow, Daniel a lion's den...Discuss what it is for you.** All of these miracles, gifts, in unexpected packages all lead to the ultimate gift...Jesus and the cross. **Read: Mathew 27 & 28** **Today:** If you don't know Jesus, invite Him into your life; if you do rekindle your relationship with Him. Both bring great and unexpected gifts, in unexpected ways.