

August 20, 2017

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Series: The Principle of the Path

Today's Message: The Heart of The Matter

Review: 1. Many want a solution to their problems but don't want to see how they have _____ to follow in the wrong direction.

2. "Direction - not _____ - determines our destination." ~Andy Stanley

3. "We win or lose by the _____ we choose."

The Heart of The Matter

The Great Pop Myth: heard in movies, songs, stories—"Follow your heart."

Problem: We are not on a truth quest—we are on a _____ quest.

* Pursuing "happy paths" can be good—but there are _____ in the road, places where our happiness quest becomes dangerous.

#1. Happy Today But... Why So Short-Term?

Proverbs 16:25 "*There is a way that seems right... but its end is the way to death.*"

Questions: Why short-term? ... Why do I have to have it now? ... Why do I end up where I didn't want to go?

Answer: We listen to ourselves until we believe our own lies: we have to have happiness now.

Strange: Even when we don't do wrong, we still feel aneecd to make excuses.

Reality: * We listen to our hearts—then assign our heads to find reasons to support our heart's decisions.

* Self-deception is easy when emotions rule—especially love.

* Get out of debt * Stay out of bed * Clean out the _____

#2. What You _____ Know Will Hurt You

Proverbs 3:5, 6 "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.*"

Truth: You can't get to where you want to be unless you know where you are to begin with.

Problem: Self-deception - not willing to admit where I am: "All is fine" ... "All will work out" ...

Jeremiah 17:9 "*The heart of deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"*

⇒ We don't just lie to ourselves—we're genuinely deceived: VERY DANGEROUS

#3. Coming To The Truth

John 8:32 "*And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*"

* Instead of looking for excuses to prop up your heart decisions, start looking for the real reasons you

wont to do things.

Psalm 139:23 *“Search me, O God and know my heart: test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

* In light of my past experience, my future hopes, and my dreams, what is the wise thing to do?

Our Need:

* Clarity — to know what to do

* Courage — to do it

* Refusing to be deceived by your heart