



Series: Directions

Title: Where Are You Going?

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Smythe Street Cathedral

## Pre-Sermon

Wayne does offering, Max Goodine doing Caton's Camp reminder, prayer / greeting

### Dismiss Switch if forgotten

## Introduction

*A senior citizen was driving down the freeway when his wife called his cell phone.*

*"Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Route 280. Please be careful!"*

*"It's not just one car," said Herman, "It's hundreds of them!"*

All of us end up with moments in life we ask how we ended up where we were. Whether it is in a point of crisis in a friendship, marriage or relationship, or a financial situation that we don't know how to escape, or a personal time of being overwhelmed. We look around one day, and often wonder, how did I end up here.

Over the next couple weeks, we're going to look at some key ideas from Scripture that can help us see how we ended up where we are.

## Reading (11 AM Service by Stephen Jones)

### **Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (NIV84)**

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you

this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

## The Big Choice

Moses is near the end of his time on earth. He's led the children of Israel, God's chosen people, out of Egypt and then through the desert for 40 years. He is in Moab and giving them some of their final instructions before they go on without him into the land that God had promised to them generations before.

### Exodus 30:15 (NIV84)

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

Moses tells the people that at that moment, they face a big opportunity, before them lie God's life, what is good, blessing, prosperity on one hand. On the other hand, they are facing death, evil, calamity, disaster or destruction.

When faced with those options, what would you choose, well, who wouldn't choose life and goodness. I'm honestly interested in those too.

So what does Moses tell them is key to realizing God's best and good?

For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

I want to draw your attention to a key phrase in this passage **“to walk in his ways.”**

We talk of the commands of God, and we think of them simply as rules.

*God's Laws are not just rules, they are paths,  
they take you somewhere.*

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**STORY: DRIVING FROM MY FATHER-IN LAW'S HOUSE TO TREVOR AND APRIL'S WEDDING EARLY IN THE MORNING. WAS HEADED TO MONCTON WHEN I NOTICED THAT THE SUNSET WAS IN MY MIRROR. AT THE TURN OFF I HAD TAKEN THE EXIT FOR FREDERICTON AND MONCTON WAS MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM ME. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HOPED, OR ASPIRED, IF I STAYED ON THAT ROAD, IT WOULD TAKE ME TO FREDERICTON.**

God's ways are like that. When God gives us his commands, it is not just because they are rules to be kept, they will take you somewhere.

### **Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20):**

Anytime we break any one of these they set us on a path that will take us somewhere we don't want to go.

- Have no other Gods
- Don't make a graven image (idol)
- Don't take the name of the LORD in vain
- Remember the Sabbath
- Honour your father and mother
- You shall not murder
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not bear false witness (lie)
- You shall covet what belongs to your neighbour

## Honestly, all of us have headed on these paths

Sometimes from tiredness, habit, and sometimes intentionally (the Bible calls that rebellion). We end up on them, but there is good news for us.

### MY MONCTON STORY PART 2:

YOU KNOW ON THE HIGHWAY THERE ARE THOSE TURN AROUND POINTS, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO USE THEM, BUT IT WAS REALLY EARLY AND I FOUND ONE AND HEADED BACK THE RIGHT WAY (IF YOU GET IN THAT SITUATION, USE AN EXIT AND TURN AROUND)

When Jesus came and began preaching his message was simple:

Matthew 4:17 (NIV84)

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

The word repent gets a really bad rap today, mostly due to people putting it on placards and looking with hateful eyes to those who disagree with them, but at its' heart, is Jesus' call to turn around.

The road you are on will take you somewhere, and God has a better plan for you.

Deuteronomy 30: 19b-20

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

When we choose God's paths, we are not only going to enjoy the benefits of it, the patterns and paths we set those around us on, and those who follow us on will take them to the good places of God's blessing as well.

## **What if We turned around?**

When I turned around, I'll be honest, I was a bit later to the party. I had lost time, spent some gas.

Maybe you are thinking is it too late, look at the time I've lost, the relationships that I've burned, the debt I'm in.

You cannot get that time back, but let me tell you one thing about my turn around.

I got to enjoy a beautiful sunrise from my windshield that I would have not enjoyed if it had been behind me.

It is not too late to go after God's blessing.

## **Prayer**

Next Week: Directions: Who Are You Going With?