

DESTINATIONS

The Path Principle

Andy Stanley

Scripture: Proverbs 7:6-27

Idea: Direction, not intention, determines destination. You win or lose by the path you choose. It is not where you are that is the issue; it is where you are headed.

Tension: There is often a disconnect between where we want to end up and the path we choose.

Introduction

1. How many of you are not good with directions?
2. As someone who has been lost a lot, I can tell you three things:
 - People who are lost never get lost on purpose.
 - You are lost before you know you are lost. You are never aware that you are getting lost—it dawns on you.
 - **You always end up where the road you are on takes you.**
3. Where you intended to end up is irrelevant. Saying, “But this isn’t where I want to be” does not help. No matter how loud or often you say it. Neither does tapping your heels together.
4. Lost people are victims of the principle of the path: you will always end up where the path you are on takes you.
5. If you are on the wrong road, it doesn’t matter what you believe. It doesn’t matter what your intentions are. You are in trouble.
6. The paths we choose impact us more than our intentions or our motivations.
7. We are all on a path of some kind—financially, morally, relationally, spiritually.

There is often a disconnect between where we want to end up and the path we choose.

To begin our series, I want to introduce you to the path principle.

Turn to Proverbs 7:6.

The young man ignored the principle of the path . . .

- I. **The principle of the path: direction determines destination.** You will always end up where the path you are on takes you.
 - A. Decisions, not intentions, not dreams, not plans, determine your destination.
 - B. In the world of roads and trails, we know that to be the case.
 1. You know that intentions and assumptions and motives in no way alter the direction or destination of a road, path, trail . . .
 2. You choose a road based on a desired destination . . . unless you are just joyriding.
 - C. In the world of behaviors, habits, and lifestyles, we lose sight of this.
 1. People wake up far from where they intended to be.
 2. People hit 30 and 40 and their dreams aren’t coming true.