

The Principle of the Path

1. Story about coming home
 - a. I was careless
 - b. Found myself in CHCH
 - c. Came home-
encountered havoc
2. Why do people find themselves in a place they never intended to be
 - a. They may be in debt
 - b. In a dead end job
 - c. Married to the wrong person
 - d. Emotionally unhealthy
 - e. No one intends this
3. The principle of the path
 - a. Direction, not intention, determines destination.
 - b. How do you get from point a to point b in life?
 - c. How do you figure this out?
 - d. How do you get somewhere you've never been?
4. Principles are important
 - a. Archimedes principal
 - b. A body immersed in water will experience a thrust from bottom to top equal to the amount of water displaced.

- c. This principal is true whether you want to believe it or not
 - d. Its what makes stones sink and cruise ships float.
 - e. Archimedes didn't invent this- he discovered it while taking a bath.
 - f. When buoyancy is applied things float- when misapplied people drown.
 - g. The same is true for the principle of the path.
5. To get from point A to B you'll need some *wisdom*. And for a lesson in wisdom we turn to Solomon
 - a. Wisest person that ever lived.
 - b. Proverbs (which you should prob read ASAP), Ecclesiastes (which you prob won't understand until your forty), and Song of Solomon (which you prob should only read once you married...or you think the bible is boring)

- c. Takes over from David at 20.
 - d. Has no idea what to do
 - e. So he admits this to God
 - f. And, in a dream, God grants him wisdom
 - g. With this he rules wisely, peace falls on Israel, and he builds the temple.
6. Determining direction
 - a. One of the most instructive parts of Solomon's life is the wisdom committed to the book of proverbs.
 - b. Proverbs 3:5-6: ***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and Lean not on your own understanding, and in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.***
 - c. Trust- Hebrew- face down, absolute dependence
 - d. Lean not- don't prop yourself up with anything else
 - e. All your ways-submitting is the

- beginning of directing your life to the right path
 - f. Straight path ways-no shortcuts
7. Less we think that we can do this without suffering lets acknowledge that failure is sometimes a better teacher than success
- a. Solomon's failure is instructive
 - b. 1 Kings 11:1-4
 - c. Solomon had a weakness for women
 - d. Prob. Shrewd politics, but it got away from him
 - e. He married 700 wives
 - f. He had 700 Mothers in law
 - g. And in the end, they turned his heart from God.
8. Solomon's life teaches us about the principle of the path
- a. Direction is not about will power, its about attention.
 - b. What are you paying attention to?
 - c. Is it party and pleasure or precision and
 - d. perfectionism.

- e. Whatever you pay attention to determines your direction
 - f. Past-times are a pathway
 - g. Whatever you indulge in will determine what you pay attention to.
 - h. Wisdom and logic are two different things- the right things and the wise things are not always the same thing.
9. Our culture is a maze and not a map.
- a. We can't trust a culture that promises us buy now pay later; zero-percent financing, live your best life now.
 - b. Nor, can we confidently trust our own judgment or intuition
 - c. Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
10. What we need:
- a. Wisdom- surrounding ourselves with people who will tell us not more about ourselves, but the truth about ourselves.

- b. A Map- the word of God as a way of life.
 - c. A competent leader- Jesus
 - d. John 8:32 The truth will set you free
 - e. Not a freedom to wonder- a freedom to end up in the center of God's will
 - f. Freedom rightly defined- when is a train most free- when its on the tracks.
11. Direction, not intention, determines destination.
- a. Surround ourselves with fellow pilgrims
 - b. Good compass-Find someone who will tell us the truth.
 - c. Study the map
 - d. Follow the leader.

May god grant is the wisdom to discern where we are, which road to take, and the courage to take the first step, whether it be forward or back to the straight path, let it be one taken in faith. Let it be one taken following Jesus, who is faithful to lead us, from wherever we may come. Amen.