



John: The Path from “Beloved” to Exile

The Deviated Route

What is Life?

- Eccl. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.”
(spiritual)
- A series of detours (more grounded)

Once detoured, how do we cope?

“The really happy person is the one who can enjoy the scenery, even when they have to take a detour.” Sir James Jeans

Detours and Bypasses

- Fishing as his trade.
 - Matt. 4:21 “... mending their nets...”
 - Lk 5:9 “For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;” (**begin to believe**)
 - vs. 10 “and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” (**new purpose**)
 - Matt. 6:20 “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Detours and Bypasses

- Fishing cont'd.

- Rom. 6:17-22 “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What **fruit** did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is **death**. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit** to holiness, and the end, **everlasting life**.”

Detours and Bypasses

- Yearning for Justice...

- Lk. 9:54, the “correct” response to Samaritan mistreatment of Jesus was immediate, fiery death

- vs. 55-56 “But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.

- John 3:17 “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Detours and Bypasses

- ...or Learning the True Purpose?

- 3rd John vs. 9 “I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.”
- vs. 10 “Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.”
- vs. 11

Detours and Bypasses

- ...or Learning the True Purpose Cont'd.
 - Luke 6:37 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”