

Fil-Am Community Church
Pastor David Bennett
28 December 2014
Key Verse: Mathew 2:13-15

Danger (Detours) Deliverance

Good morning Fil-Am Church, it is so good to see you this morning, I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas and are now leaning forward, looking toward the New Year with excitement and expectation on what will happen, as we try and follow his will.

This morning we are finishing our series on the Christmas Journey, The first sermon was the Journey from Burden to Blessing. Then, last week, we looked at the Journey from Worry to Worship and this morning we will discuss our final message, Journey from Danger to Deliverance, however when I was developing the sermon it grew into something different (as it typically does) so this morning we will discuss, Danger (Detours) into Deliverance.

For time's sake let's get into the "**Word of God**", but more importantly, let's get the "**Word of God**" into you!

Matthew 2:13-15 NASB

¹³ *Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord *appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "**Get up!** Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."*

¹⁴ *So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother **while it was still night**, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵ He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "**OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.**"*

I. A Detour Protected /Delivered Jesus from the hands of Herod.

The verse we read tells us that Jesus' being delivered from the destruction, saved when an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, *"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there."*

Look again at verse 14, *¹⁴ So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.*

Joseph **IMMEDIETLY** got up, grabbed whatever belongs they had and took off with Jesus and Mary to Egypt.

Notice that Joseph did not say OK we leave tomorrow morning after breakfast, once I get everything packed up. He left while it was still night.

The trip was around 75 miles from Bethlehem...

Just think about this for a few minutes, he and Mary had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem only expecting to stay a few days and then return.

They never expected for the **Detour** to EGYPT, their family, work, home friends were all back in Nazareth, they never got to say "Good-Bye."

They didn't bring the wagon loaded with all their stuff, valuables, furnishings, what would happen to their house, the carpenter shop etc.

Joseph just obeyed! He trusted that if God told him to Go, that he would provide a way.

He knew that if God brought you to it, he was capable of bringing you through it!

We can see again and again, throughout the Bible how God used **Detours** to save his people.

Go back to Genesis where Jacob's son Joseph was sold into slavery, put into prison, for all those years, and eventually being raised to a position second in charge and was able to not only save his family but the entire Jewish nation.

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Years later after Joseph's death, the Israelites multiplied and became enslaved by the rulers of Egypt, for more than 400 years they toiled in Egypt under "Brutal Task-Masters."

When a Pharaoh arose that didn't know him or his family passed an edict to have all the Hebrew male babies killed, just as now Herod is going to have all the babies of Bethlehem 2 years and under killed.

Exodus 1:22 NASB

²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive."

Just as Moses was a deliverer of his chosen people. (Out of EGYPT)

Jesus was the deliverer of the entire World. (Flee to EGYPT)

II. God is involved in the smallest details.

Psalm 34:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous; But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Clyde Gordon, who was completely paralyzed from the neck down, edited a magazine called, the Triumph, in it he said,

Christ is no security against storms,
But he is a perfect security in storms.

He does not promise an easy passage,
But he does guarantee a safe landing!

We see again and again, God's hand in the overall plan.

We can see that it was because of the Census by Augustus Caesar, (**Detour**) where at least a million people throughout the Roman Empire, had to register.

The purpose was to move on couple down to Bethlehem where the Messiah was to be born.

- ✓ We can see that God used the census to move Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the madness of Herod's plot to move them to Egypt (**Detour**) and then after his death, from Egypt back to Israel.
- ✓ We can see that the wise men showed up with Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, which Joseph would need to pay for his trip to Egypt and sustain them until Herod's death and return to Israel.

One thing we can learn is that God is working in the tragedies of life, he is always there providing a way, a means of escape.

Here are a few things to consider about King Herod, he had already killed 2 of his own sons, he had strangled them. He also killed 1 of his 10 wives, because he thought she had been unfaithful.

He killed his 18 year old brother-in-law, because the Jews liked him. He also killed his grand-father, and his uncle, who had once saved his life. He also killed his own uncle and his mother-in-law, not to mention the latest edict to kill all the new born babies.

When Jesus, Joseph & Mary fled to Egypt, (**Detour**) there were already thousands of Jews who fled the wickedness of King Herod.

If you remember back during the time that Israel had been under bondage from both Assyria and Babylon, which we talked about during (**IMPACT**) class, one of the things they did was to disburse the Jews all over the place (**Detour**) to keep them from banding together and becoming too powerful.

These disbursed Jews provided a place a refuge when they fled King Herod.

Who would have thought that God would get the glory when the children of Israel were scattered from their homeland?

Can anyone agree that God had a plan?

The land (EGYPT) that had once enslaved the Jews, God now used to protect the Jews.

III. Detours to Deliverance

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide **the way of escape** also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary the definition of a “**Detour**” is the act of going or traveling to a place along the way that is different from the usual or planned way; a different path, unexpected turns and obstacles.

What do you do when life takes you down a path for which you didn’t plan?

Detours are **DESPISED** by every path loving, calendar driven, time conscious people worldwide.

As deeply as we despise **detours** they continue to be a part of our life, and as we will discover today are many times appointed by God.

Detours in life can also be seen much like a photographer who carefully develops his film in a dark room, God allows us to go through dark times because he is trying to develop us into a beautiful image of Christ.

The trip to my Mom’s house where I grew up in Northern Alabama is around 675 miles from here.

When I get in the car with it is typically with one thing in mind. My goal is to get from here to there in the least amount of time. With possibly a meal stop, and a few restroom stops, while gassing up, depending upon weather and traffic it is usually 10-11 hours driving.

When I drive it with Shirley there are a few other things to consider, there are other things that occasionally catches our (her) attention. The thought flashes through our (her) mind that we could take a moment and get off the interstate and check it out.

I try my best to remind her of the mission, the goal, is to get there. No time to stop by all those Tangier Outlets, or roadside stands with vegetables etc.

Sad to say too many times this is how we go through our life, just concentrating on getting from point A to point B, no distractions at all. Our lives become one big mission, trying to get there, not allowing the time to stop and look at this or that or as they say, to stop and **smell the roses**.

This “**Express Lane/ Microwave**” mentality even transfers over into our relationship with God.

We develop systems we can measure to see if we are on track on the mission.

So we develop systems, Things like attendance. If we went to more Sunday services this year than last year, we must be on track, we're improving!

If we went to less, then we simply adjust. If we gave more money, attended more meetings, added more functions, it's all very mathematical.

The problem is just like the journey described earlier if we only focus on getting from A to B.

If we organize our lives around the fastest, cleanest, easiest way to accomplish the task we will miss most of the good stuff, Gods **Detours**.

I have realized over the last few years, specifically since Shirley bought me a few Harley Davidson motorcycles... The latest my 2014 Street Glide Special... OK let me get back on point. I am now starting to realize that on a trip, and in life, while it's great to have interstates in order to get us there faster, however sometimes it is so much better to take the back roads, because

that's where most of the good stuff happens on those back roads and **Detours**.

Did you realize that the new GPS systems that Harley installs on all their touring bikes have a mode in the navigation that you can select, like many of you are aware of in trip options on your GPS systems, like fastest time, most use of freeway or least use of freeway, they have an option that says windiest roads...

Because for most Motorcycle Riders it is not so much about the destination it is about the journey...

The problem is we get so consumed in the hustle and bustle of life and most of us don't hit those back roads.

We avoid **Detours**, for many the thought of taking a road that we are not familiar with makes us very **uncomfortable**. It might also waste of our time.

If something happens or someone interferes with our plans, with our mission, with our mapped out trip we respond with **frustration**, and **anger**.

There are a few things to consider when we are on a (**Detour**)

- ✓ Will you continue to follow and obey if your expected end (**EGYPT**) is not what or where you intended?
- ✓ Will you accept God's plan if it means you have to forget you plan?
- ✓ Will you continue to follow if the answer is "**NO**" to our plan or dream?

We have to understand that we cannot hide from detours, they will happen. It is not a matter of if; it is a matter of when.

Detours reveal our insecurities, God does this to get our eyes off our abilities and get them focuses back on his abilities.

WE also need to understand that **Detours** look like mistakes long before they every look like miracles.

We said in **HOMEGROUP** the other night that God is more concerned about your **character than your comfort.**

- ✓ Jonah would have never believed that being swallowed by a fish was a miracle; however we know the rest of the story...
- ✓ Joseph would have never thought that being sold into slavery or being put into prison was a miracle, but once again we know the rest of the story...
- ✓ Who would have thought that putting Moses in a basket and released into the water was a miracle, but yet again, we know the rest of the story...
- ✓ I will tell you, would have thought that a hard living, Master Gunnery Sergeant, career United States Marine, being transferred to northern Virginia was a miracle, but I am learning the rest of the story...

IV. What can we learn from Detours?

James 1:2-3New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance

Psalm 119:71New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷¹ It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn your statutes.

Here is a poem I ran across and thought was appropriate, it is called

“Things Don’t just Happen?”

Things don’t just happen to us who love God,
They’re planned by his own dear hand,

Then molded and shaped, and timed by his clock,
Things don't just happen... They're Planned!

We don't just guess on the issues of life,
We Christians just rest on our Lord,
We are directed by his sovereign will,
In the light of his Holy Word.

We who love Jesus, are walking by faith,
Not seeing one step that's ahead,
Not doubting one moment what our lot might be,
But looking to Jesus instead.

We praise our dead Saviour for loving us so,
For planning each care of our life,
Then giving us faith to trust him for all,
The blessings as well as the strife.

Things don't just happen to us who love God,
To us who have taken our stand,
No matter the lot, the course, or the price,
Things don't just happen... They're Planned!

The safest place to be is where God leads you.

- ✓ The wise men followed a Star, which led them to the Messiah.
- ✓ They also followed God's instructions in a dream and escaped Herod's wrath.
- ✓ Joseph followed the angel's instructions in a dream and escaped to Egypt.

The safest place you can be is in the center of Gods will.

Whatever path you wind up on in life, God knows where it may lead.

You can always feel secure in God's arms.

This is not to say that bad things won't happen along the way, however God is in charge and take an event, or detour and turn it into a miracle.

We don't know how our journeys will end either. It is up to us to try and step out on faith and follow what or where God is leading you today!

What is your **EGYPT**? Some of you are fleeing to, while others are fleeing from!

I don't know where you are on your journey today, I am not sure if you are in Nazareth, Bethlehem, Egypt or back in Israel? I don't know your plan and if you were honest I am sure you would agree that you don't either, but we serve a God who does.