

08/10/25 Message

Part of Messages Not in Series

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Message: You've Arrived

When I plan a trip, I start planning for the trip months in advance, if not longer. I spend hours researching everything. I want it to be as good as it can be. I want to know the good, bad, and ugly so I can maximize the good and minimize the ugly. Then, we arrive and hopefully everything goes exactly as expected. And when it doesn't, hopefully it's better! Life is like that, or it should be. You grow up making plans and having life goals. You form your belief system, your values, your morals, your character. Then you get out your GPS to plan your route. If you want a specific career, you take an academic path or a job path to gain experience to get you where you want to be. You plan for your arrival, long before you arrive! Like any roadway you'll ever travel, there are roadblocks. There are detours. There are potholes. There are obstacles and things that cause you to swerve. You have flat tires, dead batteries, and other things that delay you, things you have to deal with to get back on the road. That's life! Then you arrive! Today, in this moment, your current reality, you may be where you want to be, or you may be where you don't want to be, but I want you to understand this... You've arrived!

—Pastor Chad

You may have been wandering, striving, struggling, or searching. Everything up to this point has led you to this place and you've arrived!

- The question is: Do you like where you are?

Motivating Factors in Our Lives

- FAITH

- FEELINGS

The Prodigal Son

Read **Luke 15:11-16**

Luke 15:17-24 (NLT)

17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!

18 I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you,

19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.

23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast,

24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

You ever felt like the run-a-way son? You choose your path, you give it all you got, and then you hit one of the pitfalls of life, you avoid an obstacle in the road, you are stopped by a roadblock, you are faced to make a detour, you are slowed down by a pothole, maybe you get lost. Been there? The journey you’re on just didn’t lead you to where you wanted to be, expected to be, or thought you’d be. This son left the lap of luxury to lose it all! His journey didn’t turn out at all like he thought it would. After all, if he thought it would turn out the way it did, he would have never left in the first place!

—Pastor Chad

Points for the Road

- Where you are doesn't have to be your DESTINATION (cf. v17)

In life, from the moment you are born, God intended for you to be on a journey. If you stop, it's because of you, not because of Him! I can commit to you with all authority of your Creator; God never intends for any place or any circumstance on this earth to be your destination! The only destination He has for you, is heaven!

—Pastor Chad

God intended for him to be on a journey and it only stops being a journey when we take it out of drive and put it in neutral, or even worse, park! Where you are right now isn't meant to be where you need to stay. Physically, emotionally, and spiritually, where you are isn't meant to be where you need to stay. God has bigger and better plans for you.

—Pastor Chad

- Changing directions starts with a DECISION (cf. v20)

After his wake-up call, he made the decision to return home! What a beautiful picture of repentance. Before we ask forgiveness of our sins, we repent of those sins. That means in our heart, we take the steps necessary to change directions and turn away from that sin, walk away from that sin, avoid that sin, reject that sin, and we can never do that until we decide to change!

—Pastor Chad

- Only stop when you're DEAD (cf. v32)

Luke 15:32 (NLT)

"We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!"

The run-away dude wasn't really dead, but that's what the father said to his other son, for your brother was

dead! The Greek word used here describes a corpse or in two simple words, lacks life! Not able to respond to impulses or perform functions. Unable, ineffective, dead, powerless. Unresponsive to life-giving influences (opportunities); inoperative to the things of God. Dead! When we find ourselves in a situation where we are still, stagnant, satisfied, stale... Luke (who was a physician) tells us it describes a dead person!

—Pastor Chad

Look at the spiritual disciplines and the purposes of the church.

All of the spiritual disciplines and all of the purposes of the church are action verbs. The Bible tells us and teaches us about them and God expects us to do them! It's a journey of faith where we lead very active lives, constantly moving in a direction away from sin and toward God. Cool thing is, we don't have to do it alone. The Bible doesn't just say to walk toward God, it says to follow Him, which means He is walking with us! He's like a loving parent saying, come on now, don't give up, keep on keeping on, you can do it, just follow Me!

—Pastor Chad

Where Are You

Only you and God know where you are.

But know this, you've arrived!

You are somewhere!

Do you like where you are?

I'll ask it a different way: Does God like where you are?

—Pastor Chad

Where you are doesn't have to be your destination!

Changing direction starts with a decision!

Only stop when you're dead!

You are the only one who keeps you where you are.

Only stop and be satisfied when we reach heaven!

Can you imagine the party, the celebration that's being planned for when you arrive in heaven? Planning started the moment you were born. That's the real destination. Not success. Not fame. Not money. Not stuff. It's not too late. You're not too far. You are not too broken. God loves you so much, He's waiting for you to put it in drive and live for Him!

—Pastor Chad

- Today might be the day you need to put it in gear and walk away from the shame because God wants to forgive you!
- Today might be the day you need to walk away from your plans, trusting that God's plans are bigger and better!
- Today might be the day to realize your identity isn't in anything you'll find on this earth, you are a child of God and He wants you back and on track on a journey with Him.