

Articles and Sermons :: Beware of Detours by Warren Wiersbe

Beware of Detours by Warren Wiersbe - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2020/2/29 0:54

Beware of Detours by Warren Wiersbe

Topic: Detours

Scripture(s): Acts 21:1-17

Description: Warren Wiersbe gives a very simple but profound teaching taking us into the life of the Apostle Paul and his decision making. He paints a picture of his choice to go to Rome and potentially the way he choose was a detour. This message can be a help and warning to us in the Holy Spirit to desire God's best direction and will in our lives.

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=17311&commentView=itemComments>

Re: Beware of Detours by Warren Wiersbe - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2020/2/29 1:06

This message felt like Wiersbe was responding to a very specific person and situation rather than applying balanced exegesis. Many of the principles are sound but they certainly do not come from the text itself. In the final 10 minutes he alludes to some interactions he has had as a pastor and some of his own shortcomings and failures but without elaborating. These situation are the core things he should have examined. It would benefited the Moody congregation. This is a time where the cultural norm which made topical preaching anathema failed to serve the Body.

I have a lot of respect for Warren Wiersbe. The Lord has directed me to some great gems by this brother. This message however was clearly for a specific brother at a specific time.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2020/2/29 5:46

dear brother,

Upon listening to the message I felt it could speak to some saints, the Scriptures he shares still are 100% applicable to all saints in every time. And I think it is a good warning and encouragement for us about detours in our lives and how God is faithful to continue to direct in the end.

I agree with you he might have been preaching that message thinking of a local context there at the church he was pastoring.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/2/29 20:09

The sermon of his that has always stuck with me was called "Taking a Bath in Psalm 51." So good.

Re: Was Paul wrong in going to Jerusalem? - posted by narrowpath, on: 2020/3/8 15:06

I listened to that sermon and it did not sit right with me.

If Paul was wrong in going to Jerusalem, there is about 1/3rd of Acts that would drop into a parenthesis, because it establishes truth on wrong premises.

First Paul determined in the Spirit:

Acts 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Secondly he was bound in the Spirit

Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

If Paul was disobedient, he would not be bound in Spirit, but in his soul. The Greek word used in both cases is πνεῦμα (Spirit), not ψυχή (soul)

Thirdly,

in Acts 23:11 Paul got a confirmation that his decision to go to Jerusalem was in fact right:

Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Furthermore, Paul understood, that, although he was sent to the Gentiles, the Gospel must be preached to the Jew first.

Paul received a prophetic word that he would testify before rulers and kings. Had he not gone to Jerusalem, he would unlikely have testified before King Agrippa, and he would not have been sent in chains to appear before Cesar.

Others prophesied to Paul, that imprisonment would expect him in Jerusalem, but ADDED on through their own interpretation that he should not go. It was again Agabus, who set it straight, by saying the same thing without the soul-inspired addition that he could not go.

Read what the bible says in Acts 21

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, THE WILL OF THE LORD BE DONE.

God's purpose was for Paul to testify before the rulers in the capital of the religious world, Jerusalem, the capital of the intellectual world, which was Athens, and the capital of the political and military power, which was Rome.

Paul was not on a detour like Jonah or Barnabas or Demas. He was in the will of God.

In fact, Paul wanted to show that he was willing to be cut off from God if it would help to save some of his people, just like Christ and Moses. Paul set an example for generations of persecuted Christians not to shun imprisonment, torture and death. Paul was as effective, perhaps even more effective a missionary in chains than as a free man.

Had Paul not gone to Jerusalem, the Jews could accuse him of cowardice, but he stuffed their mouths by showing them that he wanted their salvation more than his own life.

So he heaped fiery coals of conviction on every Jew who accused Paul of treason.

If you take Warren Wiersbe's statements further you would throw a lot of doubt on a big part of the New Testament.

I agree with what Wiersbe says in conclusion about detours in general, though not in this particular case.

The only thing that baffles me, is that upon the advice of Christ believing Jewish leaders he partook in a cleansing ritual and shared the cost for an offering of men who took a vow - but this, I guess, is another topic..