

## Opportunity for Redirection

*Series on Following God's Schedule*

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## What We Will Learn

- God provides opportunity for redirection
  - Voluntary redirection
  - Coercive redirection
- Christ teaching through parables
  - Lost sheep. Lost Coin. Prodigal son.
- Examples from David
  - Interactions with Abigail
  - Forced exit from Philistine battlefield

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## Christ Teaches Promise of Opportunity for Redirection

- God is displeased for any person that departs from following his schedule
  - Provides opportunity for redirection
  - Voluntary or coercive redirection
  - Pleased for every person redirected to following God's schedule
  - Luke 15:1–10
- Parables: The Lost Sheep. The Lost Coin

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## Luke 15 (NIV)

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.

2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

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## Luke 15 (NIV)

4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

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## Luke 15 (NIV)

6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

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### Luke 15 (NIV)

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’

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### Luke 15 (NIV)

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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### Coercive Redirection

- Parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin
- Illustrate coercive redirection
- God provides opportunity for redirection
- And is pleased when redirection is successful
- He provides coercive redirection based on his judgment
  - If coercive redirection is the only option
  - And will likely be effective

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### The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

- Circumstances for coercive redirection
- Did not have a choice in getting lost
  - Sheep drifted away from the flock
  - Coin was misplaced
- Will like to return if possible
  - True for the sheep
  - Coin doesn’t have a choice
- Cannot return safely by itself

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### Voluntary Redirection Parable of the Lost Son

- Son bolted from father with wealth
- Squandered wealth and became destitute
- Decided to return to father and submit to whatever condition father could offer him
- Father rejoiced in accepting son back
- Appealed to his senior son to do the same
- Luke 15: 11–32 [Selections read in session]

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### Luke 15 (NIV)

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

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### Luke 15 (NIV)

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

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### Luke 15 (NIV)

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

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### Voluntary Redirection Based on Christ Teaching cont’d

- A person departs or plans to depart
- From God’s schedule
- An intervention
  - Draws person’s attention to the departure
  - Identifies the return path
- Accept, repent, and commit to the return path
- God will rejoice and celebrate your return

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### Voluntary Redirection Example from David

- Driven by anger and selfishness
- David intended an action
- Inconsistent with “right and just”
- Encounter with Abigail helped David recognize and repent from his plan
- Accepted redirection
- Avoided potential negative consequence
- 1 Samuel 25:1–35 [32–35 read in session]

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### 1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

32 David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.

33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.

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### 1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

34 Otherwise, as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.”

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## Coercive Redirection Example from David

- Circumstances compel a person
- To abandon planned departure from God
- God places insurmountable obstacle to compel person to change path
- David rejected from Philistine battlefield
- Compelled to return to base
- Saved him from potential negative outcome

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## 1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?"

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## 1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

8 "But what have I done?" asked David. "What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can't I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

9 Achish answered, "I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go up with us into battle.'

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## 1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

10 Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light."

11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

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## David Saved By Coercive Redirection

- Joining Philistines in battle against Israel
- Problem for David irrespective of outcome
  - Fight faithfully with Philistines to victory?
  - Fight faithfully with Philistines to defeat?
  - Turn against Philistines to defeat for Israel?
  - Turn against Philistines to victory for Israel?
- David saved by coercive redirection

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## What We Learned

- God provides opportunity for redirection
- Voluntary or coercive as he chooses
- Christ taught redirection through parables
- Two examples from David
  - Voluntary redirection: Abigail prevailed on David to abandon planned hostility
  - Coercive redirection: Philistines compelled David to leave their battle line-up

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