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**Embracing Our Destiny**  
**“Understanding Our Biblical Destiny”**  
(Part 1)

**Intro:** I believe God has a destiny for us. But, the Bible’s definition of destiny is a bit different than Webster’s.

Webster: The predetermined or inevitable course of events considered beyond the power or control of people. (This definition voids us of responsibility.) Fatalism

The Bible does talk about a destiny for us?

*Jer. 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord...” (NASB)*

*Eph 2:10 “...so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” (NLT)*

*Heb. 12:1 “...run with endurance the race God has set out before us.” (NLT)*

- God has predetermined plans for us to discover and follow. BUT, God’s destiny for His people requires cooperation. Destiny for people and groups are woven all throughout the Bible. If we are going to fully embrace our destiny as a church, we first must understand how it is explained in Scripture.
- We are going to spend the next 6 weeks understanding what God is calling us to and how He is calling us to cooperate with Him in order to see it as a reality.
- 5 truths about destiny we must understand.

**Biblical Destiny Is Communicated To People by God**

Biblical destiny is not a persons good idea

1. Destiny doesn’t originate from within us. It is not generated by our desires or ideas. For example: I thought in HS I was going to be a Game Warden / then to be destined to work at Willamette Egg Farms / Then as a youth pastor, to work with teens forever... (I will never be a SR. Pastor!)
2. None of these ideas weren’t wrong in themselves / none of them were bad desires / it’s just not what destiny is all about.
3. Example: Moses had to learn the same thing: Explain / raised in Egypt until 40 / great idea to deliver Israel – Another good idea gone bad!
  - Destiny doesn’t originate from within us.

*Is. 55:8 “...My ways are far beyond anything you can imagine...” (NLT)*

God is the communicator of destiny

1. Biblical destiny originates with God and is communicated to people.  
Example: Moses, after spending 40 years on the back- side of a desert, has His “burning bush” experience with God. It was here that God was very clear what He wanted Moses to do. (The course of His life was set!)
  2. Now Moses was faced with the dilemma of whether he was going to embrace his destiny or reject it. (He did try to get out of it!)
  3. Also, when destiny comes from God...it works / it can't fail if you walk in it...WHY? Because it's from God!
- Is. 55:11 “It is the same with MY word. I send it out...and it will always accomplish what I want it to...” (NLT)*
4. Now, I'm not saying that everyone should have a “burning bush” experience, but the Biblical model is that God does communicate His purposes very clearly and very directly. That God can communicate to a person or group however He wants so that they have a choice...Will I follow or will I reject what God is calling me to do or become.
  5. Dec. 3, 1996 was that experience for me. It was my experience with God that changed the direction of my life. It was a course that God gave to me to follow in this geographic area. It was His destiny for me to choose to walk in. It wasn't my idea. It didn't originate with me.

#### **Biblical Destiny Is Not About The Individual**

God chooses people to be channels for His plans

1. Destiny is not all about you / or the individual, it's all about God and what He wants to do through the individual. We are simply channels for the purposes of God to flow through.
2. I've always wondered why God didn't create another plan. We're pretty unreliable! Why not use angels / or just supernaturally do things Himself. At least it would always get done right!
3. I believe God uses people because God's priority is about relationships. He could accomplish His plans another way but it wouldn't require relationship with Him.
4. God always seeks to accomplish His plans through intimacy with His people. Destiny is first a relational issue before it becomes a reality.
5. Once a person becomes a channel for the purposes of God, the focus is still never on the individual, but on God and what He's doing. This is why God doesn't need any superstar players on His team. (We have too many Christian superstars today!) We all compare ourselves to them and end up feeling hopeless!

*I Cor. 1:27-29 “...God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish...he chose those who are powerless...He chose those things despised...” (NLT)*

God chooses people that are not perfect

1. The misconception is that God chooses people who are so highly qualified. Is that true? (Moses / Gideon / what about the 12 disciples?) Jesus chose people who didn't have their life together. He called Matthew while he was a tax collector! Called him as an unbeliever!
2. Many times it is the belief in your God given destiny that gives you the motivation to change your life. Why should I spiritually train / why should I discipline myself / Why should I say No to certain things? Because I have things God is calling towards.
3. Some of you have no motivation to change your life because you don't believe God has anything significant for you to do! You are believing a lie! God calls people just like you.

*Eph. 4:1 "...lead a life worthy of your calling..." (NLT)*

4. Quit waiting until the day when you finally "have it all together". Has anyone arrived there yet? Since God's destiny is not about the individual and the creation of superstars, He calls imperfect people. Hey, this means we all qualify! This should motivate us to move ahead!

#### **Biblical Destiny Is For The Blessing of A Larger Focus**

God always has a larger plan He wants fulfilled

1. The scope of Biblical destiny is always the fact that God has a larger plan that He wants to see fulfilled. God calls individuals, but his plans affect the masses. Individuals simply channel the larger plan of God.
2. Biblical examples: God called Moses, yet it delivered a nation / God called David to be King and it unified a nation / Jesus called 12 men, and it changed the world. Do you see a pattern?
3. God has a calling upon this church; a destiny that He wants fulfilled. He may have given it to me 10 years ago, but it must be corporately embraced in order to see its fulfillment.
4. The larger plan is one of transformation of this geographic area...all 40-50,000 of them! To bring restoration to lives / marriages / - To bring freedom to those that are prisoners to all the addictive lifestyles out there / To bring hope to those who are hopeless / To see people re-connect with the Creator that loves them. To be channels of blessing to a community so that it can be exalted!
5. I believe that God wants the town of Molalla and the surrounding area to be synonymous with BLESSING. Some of you are thinking...Dale, all this is impossible!

God's plan will always be more than we can accomplish

1. If we can accomplish something by ourselves it's not from God. God doesn't give us destiny that is easily accomplished or attainable through

- our wisdom and resources. It's supposed to be impossible.
2. When you look at all the people that God called in Scripture, once they understood what God was calling them to, they're first response wasn't, "Oh, that'll be easy!"
  3. But the impossible guarantees our reliance / dependence of God. It keeps us tethered to Him. This can't happen without the supernatural power of God. We must have His intervention to see this happen.
  4. Then, when God does the impossible, He gets the credit / the glory / the praise / and the people of God get to experience Him in new ways.
- Zech. 4:6 "...It is not by force nor by strength, but by My Spirit..." (NLT)*
5. I believe this is where we are at as a church. God wants us to embrace the larger focus He has given to us. It has been wonderful what He has done, but this is not our destiny as a church. This has been preparation for the greater work of God that is yet to come.
  6. This is why we must trust God to purchase the building...so we can embrace the larger scope of our calling. How can we allow our facility to hinder our destiny? We must trust God for that which is impossible in ourselves. (Purchase of over \$2 million?)

### **Biblical Destiny Is A Life Altering Experience**

God's destiny changes the direction of your life

1. It is impossible to keep living life the same if you embrace God's calling on your life. It is life altering!
  2. Once again, you look at the examples in the Bible and when Jesus called someone, their life was never the same.
- Luke 5:10-11 "...Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people! And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus." (NLT)*
- Luke 5:27-28 "...He saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax-collecting booth. 'Come be My disciple!' Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed Him." (NLT)*
3. Are you willing to alter your life in order to follow where Jesus takes you? IN what ways? What ever ways He tells you. We leave behind whatever keeps us from pursuing God's agenda for our lives. But, pastor Dale, I have my life all planned out. I'm afraid!
  4. God has your life planned out too. Do you really believe that your plans are better then God's? That you know best what will satisfy you versus the One who created you? That God will disappoint you?
  5. For us to fulfill what God has called us to corporately as a church, it will require us to alter our lives. (Not just the Pastor, but each one of us. – We'll talk about this in the weeks to come.)

God's destiny embraced gives you new internal motivation

1. God always empowers people to do what He calls them to do. Something happens to you spiritually when you accept God's course for your life. I believe the Holy Spirit is unleashed in you in new ways.
2. Why do I say this? When we walk in obedience the Holy Spirit has freedom to work in our lives. When we resist God, the Holy Spirit is quenched / grieved in our lives. He's hindered.

*Eph. 4:30 "And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live..." (NLT)*

*I Thess. 5:19 "Do not put out the Spirit's fire." (NIV)*

3. When you tell God yes, He begins to change you internally. He begins changing your thinking / your motives / your goals / your desires / even your emotions. "You're unleashing the work of God in your life!"
4. Biblical destiny is life-altering. You can't stay the same!

### **Biblical Destiny Requires Obedience To Experience Fulfillment**

Biblical destiny is a conditional promise

1. Unlike Webster's definition, experiencing the fulfillment of God's destiny for us requires our cooperation. We can forfeit God's destiny for our lives individually and corporately.
2. Let's look at some examples in Scripture of those who forfeited what God called them to. All of them had a glorious destiny given to them!
  - Samson (Judges 13:5)
  - King Saul (I Sam. 10:24)
  - Jeroboam (I Kings 11:31, 38)
3. Biblical destiny is this beautiful gift God gives to us, yet it is only realized as we walk in it. It is only realized as we walk in it God's way. We must realize that it is conditional based upon our response.

The process of fulfillment is as important as the final product

1. The path getting there is as important as the final product. God has called this church to the ministry of transformation, but the path getting there is just as important.
2. The journey is just as important to God. WHY? Because there are lessons to be learned along the way. Lessons about God / how He works / How we relate to Him / How we represent Him / How we draw on His power / How we stay connected to Him / Trails to overcome /
3. The final product may be transformation, but through the journey, He's going to change us! As we are changed, He entrusts more to us. This is why embracing destiny is also embracing the path to get there.

*James 1:3-4 “For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.” (NLT) God wants us ready!*

4. IN the next 5 weeks, I’m going to sharing with you the path I believe God is calling us corporately to walk. Honestly, I was all ready to get focused back on outreach, bringing new people in, (I even had a new message series!) but God wants us to understand our destiny better first.
5. Will you make these next five weeks a priority so we can move ahead and embrace our destiny together?