

# REAL TALK

## DIRECTION

November 14/15, 2020

Psalm 1

Pastor Daniel Hahn

## MESSAGE NOTES

*My observation (and experience, for that matter) indicates that humans have a propensity for choosing paths that do not lead in the direction they want to go. For much of our decision making, we lean hard into our intentions and pay very little attention to the paths we're choosing every day by our decisions. I see it all the time.*

— Andy Stanley, *The Principle of The Path*

### Three terms to understand:

- Blessed (thriving)

*But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. — Jeremiah 17:7 – 8*

- Way (direction)

Ultimatums make us uncomfortable because they call us to a decision. They can also save us from disaster.

*But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. — Proverbs 4:19*

*There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. — Proverbs 14:12*

*In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them. — Proverbs 22:5*

*Cowardice keeps us “double minded” — hesitating between the world and God. In this hesitation, there is no true faith — faith remains an option. We are never certain, because we never quite give in to the authority of God.*

— Thomas Merton

- Law (meditation)

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. — Proverbs 3:5 – 6*

### Three realities to consider:

- The life of attachment to God is the ultimate way to thrive no matter what.



- We are constantly confronted with choices that send us down one path or another.

*So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you,*  
— Deuteronomy 5:32 – 33

*Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.* — Proverbs 4:14 – 15

*Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity,*  
— Ephesians 5:15 – 16

- God’s Word provides the guidance we need for every step of the journey.

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.* — Psalm 119:105

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.* — Psalm 119:130

### Three questions to personalize:

1. What aspect of my life is the most difficult to surrender to God’s leading?
2. What do I fear would happen if I honored God’s Word in that aspect of my life?
3. How am I saturating my mind with God’s Truth so that I can wisely address life’s dilemmas?

*Looking back on our lives, the paths are evident. Looking at others’ lives, the paths are evident. It is when we look ahead that we lose sight of the fact that in every arena of life, we are moving in a specific direction toward a specific destination. Looking ahead we are often deceived into thinking that life is a series of unrelated decisions, and somehow we will end up where we want to be simply by force of will or luck. But the truth is, good intentions don’t determine where we land. Direction is set by our decisions. And that direction determines our destination.*  
— Andy Stanley, *The Principle of The Path*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing that ENCOUNTER left you thinking about?
- Go back and read over Psalm 1 again.
- What are some things in life that may or may not be “true” and what are some things that fall into the “absolutely true” category? (Example: goldfish make the best pets (maybe true), or humans need oxygen to stay alive (absolutely true).
- Why do you think many people resist the idea of absolute truth when it comes to spiritual realities?
- When Scripture talks about “blessing” what do you think that means?
- What is the point of the “flourishing tree” metaphor in Psalm 1?
- What are some of the ways God brings blessing into the lives of those who follow His direction?
- What are some of the ways that living estranged from God can result in huge losses?
- How would you define biblical meditation?
- How does meditating on truth contribute to thriving in life?
- Why do you think many people refuse to consider God’s offer of life?
- How has our discussion encouraged you?