



Week 6: Returning to the Call 5 – Being Steered by God

Talk summary:

We don't know what happened to Jonah – perhaps he returned home to his call as a prophet. There may be occasions in our life when we return to where we were or what we were doing. God may steer us back on to a path which we had left, because the path is not part of His plan.

Q1. Have you ever found what you'd been searching for, exactly where you first looked?

Life sometimes has a strange way of leading us back because we missed something. Go sometimes “arranges” circumstances so that unexpected unrelated events fit together. Are we are searching for a solution to a problem now and should reconsider our first thoughts.

Q2. Why have you lived your as you have? What has guided your big decisions?

Our lives have many milestones which are often signposts to God's plans for the next stage. If we look back on our lives over phases, say every 7 years, how did event shape our future? Our choice of job, where we live, family circumstances and “coincidences” influence outcomes.

Q3. Have you ever made U-turns to enable you to get where you are and why did you turn?

U-turns are usually criticised as inconsistency or unreliability and a subject of embarrassment. But they may be a way of getting us back on the right path, and need not be a source of shame. Jonah's U-turn on the way to Tarshish was needed to return him to his calling to go to Nineveh.

Trust God to lead you to the right place, even when you start in the wrong direction. God will help you to fulfil His plan for you, even if it takes a while to discover it. U-turns can help us get back on the right path, and we shouldn't be ashamed to turn.

Questions:

Conversation Starter(s)

When have you finally found what you were looking for in an unexpected place?

What was the decision you made which had the biggest impact on the rest of your life?

Have you ever gone back on a big decision and found you'd done the right thing?

What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?

What situations can I remember where God clearly intervened to steer me in the best direction?

Am I facing any big decisions now which might benefit from returning to discarded options?

Am I resistant to admitting I have made a wrong decision and so obstinate to avoid loss of face?

What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?

Perhaps trusting that God steers our lives and may ask us to turn back in order to fulfil His plan

How am I going to put it into practice?

How can I sense and encourage more of God's influence on my decision-making