

#27

Joseph
- Learning Humility

SONGS
OF DELIVERANCE
- Psalm 32:7 -

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr

Genesis 37, 39-47

Key Verse: Genesis 39:2

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"This is the history of Jacob."

- Genesis 37:2 (NKJV)

"And God said to him, 'Your name is Jacob, your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.' So he called his name Israel."

- Genesis 35:10 (NKJV)

So...

"This is the history of Israel."

This is the beginning of a history that continues until this morning's news. This verse is where the story of the nation of Israel begins. The King James says, "the generations of Jacob"; literally, "the Children of Israel". Here, God begins to fulfill His promise to Abram; "I will make of thee a great nation."

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The history of this great nation begins in a very common, family setting. A 17 year old, favorite son tattles on his, not-so-dependable, older brothers. God's chosen people were people. They were NOT super-human. They were jealous. They played favorites with their kids. They even plotted to kill the favorite son, their half-brother.

Flesh and blood, fallible, humanity.

God had a plan for these people, this every-day family

SONGS OF DELIVERANCE
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that would one day bless every family on earth.

First, He had to keep them alive! So, Joseph had a dream:

"There we were, binding sheaves in the field.

Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood up-right; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

- Genesis 37:7 (NKJV)

What 17 year old could resist telling his brothers THAT!?

God has a destiny for your life.

I. God Has A Dream And A Destiny for your life. — Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

- Joseph's dreams were NOT his destiny. "Perhaps God gave him the dream because it's what a 17-year old would listen to." - *Pastor Morris

• "His destiny was to save the lives of millions of people, not to have his family bow down to him." *

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

- Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

Don't brag about God's dream. Prime Minister led him through being sold as a slave by those very brothers. "but God was with him."

Joseph's own mouth might have gotten him

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sold by his brothers, but God went with him. (I'll bet more than once he thought, "'Wish I'd kept those dreams to myself!'")

Joseph learned to serve in Egypt by serving all those people who would one day bow to him.

Joseph learned to serve the very people who would bow to him one day.

• When they did bow to him, he was STILL serving them, not lending it over them.

- Peter and James learned this directly from Jesus. They both wrote almost exactly the same thing:

• James 4:5-10 (paraphrased) "God resists the proud, but gives grace (empowerment) to the humble; so humble yourself and let God exalt you. And resist Satan!"

• Peter 5:5-10 (paraphrased) "God resists the proud, so humble yourself before Him, and He will exalt you. Admit your total dependence on Him. And resist the devil!"

• When you humble yourself, and your purpose is to serve God's people; God will place you in the presence of other leaders who understand that they serve.

- The more willing you are to humbly serve people for God, the more people God will bring to you to serve.

- Promotion, in the Kingdom of God, comes to those who don't want promotion. It comes to those who want to serve and help as many as they can.

God puts those people in positions where they can help more people.

Promotion in God's Kingdom comes to those who don't want promotion.

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet

it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

— Matthew 20:24-28 (NKJV)

This doesn't make sense to the world. Driven by fear of being controlled, men struggle for power. The "greatest" are those who CONTROL the most people.

"... it shall not be so among you ..."

The greatest, most powerful thing you can do in God's Kingdom is serve others. Those who do so rule, because serving is His priority.

"He shall be called... *the Mighty God, the everlasting Father... * (EL-Shaddai)

— Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

Though He had every right to be served, this is the One who did not come to be served, but to serve, and give. So when we serve and give, we join the heart of the King of Kings. When we humbly give of ourselves, we let the mind of Christ be in us. Then He promotes us so we can better do His work. So, the most prestigious position in His realm is held by him who serves and gives the most; like the One who served and gave All. (Phil 2:5-11; John 3:16)

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"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

- John 15:13 (KJV)

Paul said, "...neither count I my life dear unto myself..."

- Acts 20:24b (NKJV)

Why? "...so that I may finish... the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

- Acts 20:24b (NKJV)

"Ministry" means service. Paul was unconcerned for his own life, so that he could tell folks the good news of God's grace; grace he met personally on the road to Damascus.

So, "the dreamer of dreams" was sold as a slave by his own brothers, at a discount. He was taken to Egypt; bought by Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard.

"...but God was with him..."

11. God Is With You Even When Trouble Is Your Own Fault - Genesis 37; 39:1-6

God gave Joseph a dream that revealed his future. Prudence probably would have kept it to himself, but what 17 year old boy has that much prudence? All of his brothers except Benjamin were YEARS older than him, and already jealous. But he couldn't keep his mouth shut... twice.

So they took the opportunity to get him out of their faces...
... but INTO God's.

Whatever mess you're in by your own doing, God is there. Israel was sent into bondage because of their disobedience, but:

"In all their affliction He was afflicted,
And the Angel of His Presence saved them;
In His love and in His pity He redeemed them,
And He bore them and carried them
All the days of old."

— Isaiah 63:9 (NKJV)

It does not matter that affliction is self-imposed. He hurts when we hurt, and He will carry us through our

"In all their
affliction
He was
afflicted"

affliction.

"And his master saw that the Lord
was with him, and that the Lord
made all he did to prosper in his
hand."

— Genesis 39:3 (NKJV)

"So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served
him." — v4

*Notice:

- God caused Joseph to prosper.
- Joseph served.

Wherever you are, God has a purpose for you; a destiny planned before He spoke light into being. He is using the situation you are in now to move you into position to fulfill your destiny.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,
And He delights in his way."

— Psalm 37:23 (NKJV)

Now, don't go crazy with the predestination thing. Did God PLAN for me to commit a crime, so I would go to prison, so I could achieve my destiny? ... no.

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But He is big enough and wise enough to use my failure anyway, and STILL get me to my "Pharaoh's house." This was the human means to a divine end.

Of course, God is against the crime that put me IN prison, but He used prison to change my heart.

Joseph had to be in Egypt to fulfill his destiny, so God put him there.

and God went with him.

Anywhere that God is with you is the best place you can be. The worst place Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego could have been was OUTSIDE the fiery furnace. Jesus was in there! (Daniel 3:8-30)

III. God Is With You When The Enemy Sends Trouble. — Genesis 39

"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly will I rather boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

— II Corinthians 12:7-9 (NKJV)

Paul was being exalted by God. God was blessing

him with revelation about Heaven; Some so astounding that there were no human words to relate them. (11 Cor 12:34)

Satan didn't like it, so he tried to stop him. He assigned a demon to "buffet" Paul; to harass him at every turn. "Buffet" means, "to beat about the head". (That's NOT how God teaches His children!) "A messenger of Satan"; the same is translated "angel" in Revelation 1 & 2. This "messenger" of Satan was an angel, a demon sent to "beat Paul in the head".

Also, notice that Paul didn't ask God to heal him. He asked God three times to cause the messenger "to depart from" him. God said, in essence, "you don't need it to leave, you already have enough grace to defeat it." So, Paul said, "The weakness of my flesh gives me access to the power of God's anointing. I will take that gladly!"

God does not put sickness - *a curse - on you as a teacher. (*Deut 28:13, 21, 22, 27-29, 35) God put His own Holy Spirit in you as your Teacher. He gives you the fullness of Himself, to give you knowledge of things beyond knowledge. (Eph 3:14-19, Matt 13:11) The Holy Spirit's teaching is complete ("all truth" - Jn 16:13), He doesn't need any help from concier.

Joseph?

"[God] was with him, and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper."

— Genesis 39:23 (NKJV)

• Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery,

But he didn't LIVE like a slave. — Gen 39:14-6

• Potiphar's wife lied him into prison,

But he didn't LIVE like a prisoner. — Gen 39:23-25

We maybe placed in the same circumstances as an

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unbeliever, but we don't have to live UNDER the circumstances.

Joseph may have been a slave, but he was "in the house of his master the Egyptian." His brothers sold him, but God placed him. In the end, he ran the house, then the prison, then the nation.

A Lesson From The Butler's Dream:

"Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years..."

- Genesis 41:1a

- God put the butler and baker in Joseph's prison.
- God gave them dreams.
- God gave Joseph the interpretations.
- Then Joseph went to the butler to "get me out of this house."

- Gen 40:14

(If you've never been in prison, it's easy to look for help to people from outside; sometimes instead of God.)

- "God gave Pharaoh the dream, but why two YEARS later, not two DAYS? I believe it's because Joseph tried to get out of his circumstances by manipulation. If he had gotten out that way, he would've learned that promotion comes by manipulation." (Pastor Robert Morris)

"Hope deferred (delayed) makes the heart sick, but when desire comes, it is a tree of life."

- Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV)

* Just a little sidenote: God said that when you get what you desire, it's "a tree of life," not a sin.

"Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance."

Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,
For the help of my countenance and my God."
— Psalm 43: 5, 11 (NKJV)

When you hope in God; it is NEVER deferred. He is
"a very present help in the time of need." It was not deliver-
ance from his situation that David was seeking, but God's
countenance, His face. ANYWHERE in the presence of God,
is the best place you can be. When your hope is in His
presence, your life will be prospered wherever you are.

READ: Romans 5:1-5

If your hope is in God, you go through tribulation, but
you don't LIVE like you're going through tribulation.

Don't look for the easy route out.

Don't look
for the easy
route out.

"Looking to Jesus, the author and fin-
isher of our faith,"

— Hebrews 12:2a

*Wow! Notice that when Jesus finished
His destiny, He sat down to rule at God's
right hand.

When Joseph finished his destiny, he sat down to rule Egypt.
"Rule" in God's Kingdom means, "Serve A LOT of people."
That's what Jesus is STILL doing:

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the
uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing
He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

— Hebrews 7:25 (KJV)

It's what He lives for! US!

Jesus lives forever to intercede for us; to serve. Joseph
lived his destiny by serving wherever God sent him; where-
ver God gave him to serve.

... because the Lord was with him, and made

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everything he did successful."

- Genesis 39:23 (HCSB)

1: Ypw are not a slave! - John 15:15

2: Ypw are not a prisoner! - John 8:36, Psalm 146:7

God is with ypw. Better yet, God is IN ypw. His divine purpose will bring His glory into your life. Whatever may be the path your life takes, God sent ypw there "to preserve life." Someone's lives need ypw to find your destiny. So, go forward confidently, because God is Someone's life

needs you to find your destiny!

with ypw to prosper all ypw do.

"Bring confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in ypw will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

- Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

Let Him guide ypw to your destiny, assured that everything on the way will work together for your good. (Rom 8:28)

Trust Him. He can use your failures, and tragedies, and even your enemies' attacks to bring ypw to your destiny.

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

- Psalm 23:3 (NKJV)

Just trust Him to lead your life.

More? Get, "From Dreams To Destiny" - Pastor Robert Morris
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