

Detours to Destiny The Purpose of Detours Gen. 50:

Detours come at unexpected times in life – they take us off the regular roadway due to some obstacle in our path.

You may have taken a detour in your life and cannot find the way back to where you were or the road you need to be on.

When God develops a purpose and a destiny to our lives – He includes **DETOURS** in it.

The life of Joseph is one of the greatest examples of a person called by God for a wonderful destiny, yet his life was filled with detours.

In those DETOURS – he found that God was working His greatest will for the life of the one HE loves.

God allows **things, people, circumstances** and **situations** into our lives that take us away from the straight path we know, think or believe God wants us to go in.

There is a reason God allows DETOURS in your life-

We want to look at some truths in this season – so we can handle the DETOURS correctly.

Every believer in Jesus Christ has an Eternal destiny in the Lord.

As a believer, our Eternal destiny is to be in God's presence forever, worshiping Him and ministering with Him throughout all of Eternity.

Our focus is on the Destiny He has for **us in this life** – The life that IS.

The reason we weren't taken to Heaven after our conversion is that God has a plan – destiny on earth He desires for us to fulfill.

There is a reason: not just to work or go through motions.

God rarely takes His people to their destiny apart from detours.

Part of experiencing your **destiny**, is **understanding** your detours!

Scriptures are full of destinies being reached through detours!:

- God telling Israel of their destiny – included taking them through a 40 year detour.
- Moses was on a 40 year detour –
- Abraham was on a 25 year detour!

- David was on a 13 year detour before he actually was crowned King of Israel.
- Paul was on a 3 year desert detour – before he could fulfill his purpose.

God has a destiny for you – a **place** He wants you to be & there is no better place for you than His place destined to you.

But you won't get there in a straight line!

Gen. 50 gives a summary of the story of Joseph after Jacob died and his brothers were worried he would now take revenge on them for their mistreatment of him earlier.

v. 19-21 “**Joseph said to them: Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?**

For you meant it for 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. Do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

Notice: “As for you, you meant it for evil against me, but God meant it for good...”

Note: **Destiny includes evil and good!**

Gen. 37 - details on Joseph's life:

- He's about 17 years of age.
- The youngest of Jacob's sons at the time, until Benjamin is born.
- He is Jacob's favorite son – daddy's boy, the son of his old age!
- He's born into a dysfunctional family:
 - Jacob was a deceiver who connived his brother Esau out of his birthright.
 - The love Jacob had for Rachel [favorite wife] he gave it to Joseph.
 - Jacob made Joseph a multi colored eloquent robe.
 - It showed Jacob's favoritism toward Joseph.
 - All the brothers hated Joseph, due to this favoritism and recognition of Joseph taking the place of the first born son.
 - Joseph has dreams, v. 5-7 – and it caused the brothers to hate him even more. [Their sheaves would bow down to Joseph's sheaves.]
 - **V. 9** – another dream that his father, mother and brothers would all bow to him.
 - **They envied him because he shared his dreams!**

This is a confusing situation:

- Here is Joseph with a God given dream of where he will be in the future.
- There is family chaos.
- There is a father with a bad background, his birth mother has died, your brothers can't stand you, and now he has dreams that they will be serving him.

Joseph has made three critical mistakes:

1. V. 2 – “Joseph brought back a bad report to his father about his brothers” – **he is a tattle tale.**
2. Joseph told his dreams to people who didn’t like him –
3. **Joseph sported his tunic** – showed off his coat/robe of multi-color. He was flaunting his future position and rank; he was his father’s favorite son.

Joseph has dreams and has been given a gift to interpret dreams which will work well for him in the future! This is his uniqueness!

But now:

1. Joseph is immature –
2. He is a tattle tale –
3. He doesn’t know how to transfer information to whom about what and when!
4. He wants to rub this favoritism in the face of his brothers who already don’t like him.

Joseph will have to grow up before he can realize his dreams; so Joseph needs a DETOUR!

The purpose of detours is to develop you for the destiny God has for you while God is developing the destiny for when you arrive!

God is working two things at one time:

1. He is developing you – the maturity through the things He takes you through for the destiny.
2. He is working on the destiny for when you get there.

The reason for God’s detours in our lives is because God has to work some construction in us before we are ready for the destiny!

- He has to take away the parts that don’t fit where He is taking us.
- He is building into us that which will be needed for the place He is preparing for us.

Depending on how we respond to the detours tells us how long we are in the detours & how long we will be blocked from the destiny!

So – things could get worse before they get better because development is part of the process:

- **We want the destiny –**
- **God wants us to have the character to make sure we are ready for the destiny**

The worst thing you can have is to be somewhere God wants you to be but not be ready to be there!

God can't give us our destiny if we will not allow Him to shape our character!

When God takes us on His detours; He allows us to be stripped of the things we love – value - treasure the most:

Vv 18-24 Joseph was sent by Jacob to see how his brothers were doing:

- They no longer wanted him with them. He stayed at home with Dad.
- When they saw him coming; they plotted to kill him.
- Rueben intervened and didn't want bloodshed.
- Planned a scheme to throw him into a pit.
- They stripped him of his multi-colored robe:
 - Joseph was wearing this clothing which symbolized his future position over them in the family.
 - God allowed it to be stripped from him and Joseph found himself in a pit.

God will allow the things we love more than Him to be stripped away.

- Things that we hold as valuable.

Joseph was climbing the hill of royalty and being recognized; but now he was stripped of it.

God – how can You love me yet allow me to be stripped of the valuable things in my life?:

- When we are on God's designed detours; things can get worse before they can get better!
- Especially when you are being stripped of something you are wrapped in or wrapped up with!

v. 24- They threw him into a pit that was empty and without water-

- Anybody here today in a pit? – That's a hole you can't get out of!
- When God takes you on a divine detour; you often end up in a hole.
- God didn't make the hole, but Joseph ended up in the hole.

“And there was no water in it.”

- There was no nourishment in this pit.
- There was nothing to sustain his well being – it was a dry place.

If you are here today and you really want your God designed destiny –

I would not be fair in telling you – THERE WILL BE DRY PLACES FOR YOU TO GO THROUGH ALONG THE JOURNEY BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR DESTINY!

You will have to battle disappointment with:

- **Yourself** – how did I get into this mess?
- **Family**- why did they do this to me and let me down?
- **God**- what did I do wrong to deserve this treatment?
 - How can You leave me in this hole? When you said you love me.
 - My dreams for life are shattered.
 - How can You let me go through this horrible time when You told me to trust You?

When you are in a hole with no way out – you feel like you’re in a hopeless situation.

You’re on a detour – because **detours are divinely designed to contribute to your construction.**

God must address our character and mature us if He is going to trust us with the destiny that He has for us!

v. 27-28 “Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelite –for he is our brother. They took him out of the pit and sold him for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.”

- He is being bought and sold like cheap property.
- And they took him to Egypt – as a slave.
- No chance to say anything to his father.

We started this message at the end of Gen. 50: 19- “Do not be afraid, **for am I in the place of God?** 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.”

- “Has not God brought me to this place?”
- He’s in Egypt – God has brought me here, so that I could deliver you!
- **So God’s plan for Joseph was to get him to Egypt so that he could fulfill his destiny.**
- But – in order to get him to the last chapter:
 - He had to go through the 17 year old part of his life [chap. 37] where he was stripped of his multi-colored robe,
 - Give him his dream,
 - Separate him from his family,

- Sell him into slavery –
 - So he could end up in Egypt so that God could fulfill His destiny.
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- So you may be in a bad place right now-
 - You may be in a pit right now-
 - There may be no water, no nourishment, no support.
 - You may feel like you are all by yourself and been forsaken by God, family and friends.

You need to call on God while in the pit and tell him you are available to go through whatever DETOUR He knows you need to experience so He can prepare you for the destiny He has for your future.

He can take you from there - to here – so that you can end up in the PLACE He has for you.