

We know by now in the study of the life of Joseph that God rarely takes you in a straight line from your calling of Destiny to its fulfillment.

- We never go from A to Z, by passing through B and C and D and E and F in their consecutive order.
- We end up going from A to R, to P, to T and never in a straight line process.

There are Detours to your Destiny. Why does God seem to bounce us around all over the place, sometimes good and sometimes bad, sometimes good and sometimes ugly?

### **Why?**

#### **1. To develop your character-**

- God wants to make you a better person and He never does that without **TESTS**.

#### **2. To prepare those He wants you to impact when you arrive at your destiny-**

- Destiny always involves you benefiting others beyond yourself.
- Your destiny isn't only about you.
- If it's all about you and for you: Me, myself and I – you have not yet arrived at your destiny.

Gen. 50:19-21 “Do not be afraid, for I am 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.**”

Now, therefore, do not be afraid; I will PROVIDE for you and your little ones. He comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

God is carrying you to your destiny not only to be blessed but to be a blessing to others.

We all want God to do something **to us; for us, in us** – to bless us in a certain way, change something in your life, better something in your life, you need God FOR YOU; **BUT** – your destiny cannot be only for you!

Joseph declared – “God brought me to this place; to provide for you.”

God has someone else in mind while He is bringing you to your destiny.

### **How God works:**

### **Two reasons how you can delay your destiny:**

1. You have not passed the TEST [s]!

2. You're so selfish and self centered that God cannot use you for the benefit of someone other than yourself.

**If He can't work through you because you only want Him to work for you; that delays the arrival of your destiny.**

James 1:27 teaches that Pure religion manifests itself in ministry to others. "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

- God is always doing more than one thing at a time that involves you.
- It involves you, but is not only about you and He is working on different things in different places at different times until it's time for the connection He has for all involved.
- You can only see what you are dealing with right now.

Gen. 40:23- "The chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."

We have all been in the place where it looked like the Lord was bringing an answer to a prayer; but then the opposite happened!

When God disappoints you – IT'S ON PURPOSE!

**You may be asking God:**

- Why have You allowed this, it's not fair; it's not right, I did not deserve this, it's taking too long, I'm growing older and life is passing me by.

Gen. 41:1- "It came about at the end of two full years..."

- Pharaoh's dreams could not be interpreted by his professional people.
- Joseph is languishing in the prison unjustly punished.

Vv. 9-13

Cupbearer remembers Joseph interpreted his dream and remembers there is a young Hebrew man who has the ability to interpret dreams.

- **When does the cupbearer remember Joseph?**
- He remembered it when it was Gods' time for the hookup – connection to occur.
- God created a nightmare in Pharaoh's house, while Joseph was in prison suffering.
- God doesn't allow the negative events of Joseph's life to change until the nightmare occurs in Pharaoh's life.
- God knows how to bring things back up at the right time!

v. 14- “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.”

**Point:** Joseph had no idea about Pharaoh or his dreams; he was in a dungeon all by himself.

But in less than 24 hours; his world changed.

In 24 hours – he is released from prison, allowed to clean himself up, and receive new clothes.

Gen. 41:41-43 “Pharaoh said to Joseph, See – I have set you over all the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand; clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him. Bow the Knee! So he set him over all the land of Egypt.”

**Point:** When God is ready to move you into your destiny – it doesn’t take long.

God has suddenly’s and immediately’s to move in your life when you submit yourself to His will and commit yourself to His ways.

So don’t get upset now when you are in a dark dungeon; because God is always doing something you can’t see on your behalf to bring you into your destiny for His Glory.

Gen. 45:5- Joseph is now face to face with his brothers.

“Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because **you sold me** here; for **God sent me** before you to preserve life.

- “You sold me – but while you were selling me; God was sending me!”
- “You thought you were getting rid of me – but God was preparing me to use me!”
- “You thought you were messing over me – but all you were doing was blessing me!”

If they had known Joseph would have ended up being their provider; they never would have sold him.

But God let them sell him so that God could send him in order to Preserve them!

v. 6- 7 God did it to preserve life

“The famine has been in the land for two year, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me before you to Preserve posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”

v. 11- “There I will Provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.”

God didn't send me here to live in a bigger house; He sent me here to preserve you. He sent me here to benefit someone other than myself.

**Point:**

When God blesses you spiritually [the most important blessing] and materially, circumstantially, influentially; when He changes your status in life by removing you from a negative situation –

**KEEP YOUR EYE OPEN FOR THE BLESSING HE WANTS YOU TO BE TO OTHERS!**

**Not just the blessing you have!**

The quickest way to cut short your destiny is to be only thinking about yourself and not the reason that God blessed you. Which is to always to be a blessing to person's beyond you.

The crisis in the Egyptian culture was they were not Christians/believers; nor was Pharaoh a believer in Yahweh – Joseph was a believer in a secular world.

All of you working for non- Christians, pagans and people who don't know God – God knows how to send nightmares/dreams - hook ups and connections. God knows how to create opportunities in a secular environment.

To stand for God = Joseph didn't apologize for his faith even though surrounded in a secular culture.

- He wasn't worried about being politically correct in order to impress Pharaoh.
- He didn't hide his faith in order to be accepted and tolerated by the world.
- There are too many “**secret agent Christians**” today – God can't use you if you are going to hide His name. Hide your association with HIM!

In Scripture, we see this is God's pattern:

- He takes His people on detours – both positive and negative.
- Does something in their lives that turns their situation around.
- Then God would use them to benefit people outside of themselves.

Gen. 12- God directed Abraham to leave the land of his parents and people.

- Go to a land I will show you, but not tell you about in advance- I just want you to walk by faith/trust Me.

- Follow Abraham’s life through 25 years of detours – Good – Bad – Ugly before God and Abraham are ready and Abraham is mature and responsible enough for God to complete what He said He would do way back when they started walking together.
- God told him- “When I bless you – Through you, **ALL** the nations of the earth will be blessed.”

God had a huge plan for Abraham; but it took him 25 years to be ready for what God wanted to do with his life.

But when you learn what I want you to learn, I’m going to work My plan through you and it will blow your mind – because it will touch the whole world.

**God has a whole world for **YOU** to touch!**

**How would a little boy know that his sardines and crackers would be enough lunch for over 25,000 people?**

Because when your destiny is given to Jesus’ hands; HE is not only going to fill YOU up – He’s going to use it so you can be a blessing to others.

**How would the widow of Zarapath know that when she followed Gods’ destiny regarding Elijah, she would be able to retire on what God provided for her.**

Because when you are a blessing God can work through – He doesn’t mind working in you.

So – don’t be satisfied to be blessed alone – because your destiny becomes realized when you decide to be a blessing.

**You have a choice today:**

- You can hear this message about God’s Provision for you so He can bless others through you & choose:
  - To leave this place and go back to your plain old ordinary lifestyle.
  - Get up out of that plain old ordinary bed - Back to your plain old ordinary– job – back to your plain old ordinary house to watch your plain old ordinary TV /computer/ games.
  - Eat that plain old ordinary food -
  - Go back to that plain old ordinary bed – get up and go to that plain old ordinary job – come home and watch those plain old ordinary TV shows – eat that plain old ordinary food – going through that plain old ordinary life.
- **But God is offering you another choice to introduce you to a whole other world –**

- One that is filled with a world of people who need what God has accomplished through your life and you now have to share with them so they may know of the reality of God for themselves.

God is saying to you and to you and to you and you and you and you –

**I have a plan for you –  
you are **The One** and I have a destiny.**