



***Moving from Detour to Destiny***  
Message Notes, November 18, 2018  
Genesis: 41-42

We have been unpacking the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 to learn how God is at work in the detours of our lives as we travel the road of our destiny.

**Destiny:** The customized life calling for which God has equipped and ordained us to bring him glory and expand His kingdom. (Tony Evans)

**Detours:** Deviation from a direct course or the usual procedure

Last week, we left Joseph in prison, and the Steward “forgot Joseph,” never mentioning him to Pharaoh (Genesis 40:23). **Two years have passed!** But God has NOT forgotten Joseph. He is still at work in this detour for His purpose and glory.

- Genesis 41:1-7 : “... and Pharaoh had a dream (2 actually) “
  - No one knew what Pharaoh’s dream meant, but THEN the Steward remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh of his ability to interpret dreams.
  - vs 14 – Pharaoh sends for Joseph, and Joseph gets himself ready (shaved and cleaned up).
    - We need to get prepared or BE prepared for when opportunities come.
- Often, what God is working in our detours is to teach us more deeply how to trust in Him.
- Proverbs 3:5-6 – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding*
- Joseph has been in difficult detour for a while now; notice a deep but subtle shift in his faith posture:
  - at age 17, in his arrogance, he did not acknowledge the grace of God in his ability to interpret dreams, but NOW, many hard turns later, he proclaims with true humility – “I cannot [interpret your dreams], but God will give the answers.” (41:16).

Humility and faith – the fruit of a long detour.

- Notice God’s goodness in giving TWO dreams *at each* of these pivotal moments. **Two** original dreams at age 17; **two** dreams to interpret in prison, and **two** dreams given to Pharaoh.
  - “TWO” represents the principle of **clear confirmations**. When in a detour, such clear confirmations help us know and trust what God is doing.
- So, by God’s grace, Joseph gives clear interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams, and not only interpretation but also wisdom for what to DO about it. (41:33-38)
- Pharaoh responds with an acknowledgement of the greatness of Yahweh – “So Pharaoh asked, ‘Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God.’ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘since God has made all this known to you...’” (41:38-39)
- Recognition of God’s divine power - Glory & Kingdom expansion! The fruit of detour.
- And so Joseph is appointed as “vice-president” of all of Egypt. (41:39-43)
  - He has moved from detour to destiny, at age 30, **13 years from** the time of his original dream of destiny.
- A long, arduous detour, filled with disappointment and struggle, but through it all, Joseph has learned to trust in Yahweh. Like we trust a watch to show us the correct time but do not see or understand all the mechanics going on behind the watch face. Joseph learned through this detour that he could trust in God, even when he couldn’t see all that was going on “behind the scenes.”
- Chapters 42-45 tell the rest of the story:
  - Joseph’s brothers end up traveling from afar to buy grain for their families, and YES, they end up bowing down to Joseph (42:6).
  - God’s work in Joseph’s detour was not for him alone but also for his family and all the Hebrew people.
- The world might look at Joseph’s story and declare him a “lucky guy”, but we can see and we know that this was not luck but rather the sovereignty and providence of God.
  - Sovereignty – God’s absolute right & power to do all things according to His purposes.
  - Providence – foresight; to make provision beforehand.
- The more we see (with eyes of faith and trust) the sovereign providence of God, the more we will rest in detours and understand their place in our journey to destiny.

- Romans 8:28 - "God causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose."
- God repurposes all things for his glory, as we turn to him in faith and surrender.