

WHAT IF... We Stepped into God's Story for Our Lives?

November 28, 2021 Genesis 45:7-8

OPENING QUESTION

What do you think it means to step into God's story for your life? Do you think God can take something meant for evil and turn it into good for His glory? Can He really do that?

JOSEPH STEPS INTO GOD'S STORY - Genesis 45:7-8

⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

- Stepping into God's story for your life is not a one-time decision, but a lifetime commitment.
- He is the author and perfecter of our faith story! It is an everyday walk of obedience and resisting the temptation to write our own story!

GOD HAS SENT YOU OUT TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A RESCUE - Genesis 45:4-7

- Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers, but was now a high-ranking official in Egypt, where his brothers were seeking food and refuge.
- "The LORD was with him." (Gen. 39:23)
- "But God sent me ahead of you."
- Unknown to Joseph and his brothers, God had sent Joseph on a divine undertaking.
- Joseph viewed the families of Jacob as the surviving "remnant" of the world's populations.

What is your future? Do you know, or does God know? What if your present circumstances were meant for a higher purpose? Would you be OK with that?

GOD HAS PLACED YOU WHERE YOU ARE TO DELIVER THE DELIVERER

- Joseph's brothers thought they were getting rid of Joseph, but God was orchestrating a plan, using negative, ugly kind of events that, years down the line, would benefit him and his brothers, and the nation of Israel (Gen. 50:20).
- He used their evil to promote Joseph, in order to save him and his brothers.
- Joseph emphatically denies that the brothers were (ultimately) responsible for his enslavement; rather, it was God's doing for a purpose that transcended their jealousy.
- Joseph is not absolving the brothers by this declaration; their guilt is real, but he looks to God's higher purpose.

Do you think that God has placed you in a position of "deliverer," even though your present circumstances don't seem like it? Can God use ordinary people like you to accomplish extraordinary things in the future? Stay faithful!

WHAT IF WE REALLY STEP INTO GOD'S STORY FOR OUR LIVES?

- Both Israelites and Egyptians were saved! It's about *all* people being rescued and delivered by the grace of God.
- Imagine the possibilities. Imagine what we could do together.
- We are exiles in this world. Citizens of the Kingdom exiled to this earth to point to Jesus who can rescue and deliver all people.
- We are a church family and if we all will daily recognize the story God has written for us to step into, we will see people rescued and delivered locally and globally (glocally!).

How do Joseph's experiences throughout his life help change your perspective on your life? Are you looking at the big picture for God's redemption of, not only you, but the world around you? What if God has plans for you that go beyond anything you could ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20-21)?



CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

Read Genesis 50:20. Even though many years had passed, God redeemed Joseph and his brothers, and ultimately, the nation of Israel. Is it possible that whatever trials you're going through are meant for good in the Kingdom of God? How do you know? Do all things really work out for the good of those who are called according to His purpose? (Rom 8:28)? What truths can be applied to your life from the verses this week?

Pray

Pray that God will remind you of His purpose - to bring glory to His name in any circumstance. How do the verses this week provide an example for you to follow in Genesis 45?