



“DETOURS – THE UNPREDICTABLE PATH TO YOUR DESTINY”

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
- Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
- Our **message** is *the Gospel*.

Biblical Study of Book:
‘Detours – Lessons from Joseph’
By: Tony Evans (Chapters 3 & 4)

THOUGHT TO PONDER:

Joseph had a lot of things going his way in life at first. He was handsome. He was the first son born to Jacob through Rachel, and therefore, he was his father’s favorite son. He had great dreams that made him feel good about himself. But then one day his entire life changed. Can you imagine how it must have felt to know your brothers hated you so much that they would sell you out of their lives? He was forced to leave the comfortable life he had known, full of love from his parents, and go forth into the unknown. How frightening that must have been for a boy of 17. Yet, God had His hand on Joseph. God had a divine purpose for this young man. Joseph didn’t know why God had chosen this path for his life until the very end, yet he never seemed to waver. God was always in control. Joseph kept his eyes on God, and He used Joseph greatly. What an encouragement to us. **Let God use you where you are. Let Him use you in the hard times, as well as the good times.**

The story of Joseph spans many chapters, **Genesis 37-50**. We could actually do an entire study just on the life of Joseph, but we will just focus on the key events in his life as part of the book study.

“Lord, thank you for the lessons you teach me through Joseph’s life. Encourage me through his life to seek you more intimately and to trust you for every situation that comes into my life. Keep me mindful that you are always in control.”

BIBLICAL STUDY:

Chapter 38 seems like an “interruption” to our story of Joseph in Egypt, but it is a narrative of what took place back in Canaan during this time, especially concerning the life of Judah. We pick up our narrative of Joseph in Chapter 39.

LOOKING TO GOD’S WORD

GENESIS 39

1. How did God use Joseph’s captivity for good (vv. 1-6)?
2. How was Joseph able to resist the temptation of Potiphar’s wife day after day (vv. 7-18)?
3. Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife, and Potiphar believed his wife over Joseph, resulting in his imprisonment. Yet, how did God use this for good?

4. What was one “mistake” that Joseph made that perhaps could have prevented the false accusation against him?

5. What does it mean that the Lord was “with Joseph”?

6. Does God’s favor mean prosperity? Why or why not?

7. Have you ever been falsely accused? How did you handle it? What resulted from it?

LOOKING DEEPER

- What does Stephen have to say about Joseph and what God did for him in **Acts 7:9-10**?

- As you look back over this chapter, note the times God’s favor and blessing on Joseph is mentioned. How does one gain favor?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

Joseph lived a life of integrity and was faithful to God in the midst of prosperity and adversity. He is a great example for us to follow.

- Are you living faithfully in the midst of prosperity and adversity?

- Do others around you see Christ in you?

CONCLUSION:

ILL. Several years ago there was a TV series called "Early Edition." Did you ever watch it? I only saw a few programs, but its storyline was about a young man who somehow was able to read tomorrow's newspaper today.

In other words, he was able to know what was going to happen a day before it actually happened.

Now let me ask you. If you were able to know what was going to happen before it happened, how would you use that knowledge? Would you use it to enrich yourself? What would you do with that sort of information? Would you use it to help those in need? If you knew that someone was going to be in trouble & needed help, would you rush to help them?

Would you become a hero? If you knew someone was in danger & would die, would you be there to prevent that from happening? What would you do if you knew what was going to happen tomorrow?

The fact is...we can't really know what will happen to us tomorrow, so how DO we face the future? How do we face DETOURS? What should we do? What about those things God has told or challenged us to do in the future?

Well three things I want you to think about and consider going forward that the study of Joseph's life teaches us NOT to do: #1 - ***Don't presume***, #2 - ***Don't panic***, & #3 - ***Don't procrastinate***. Instead, seek God's direction & set His plan for your life into motion.

Brothers and Sisters that's how to face a future that seems uncertain. Life is filled with "ifs" and "what ifs", but you can face the future if you put your faith & trust in Jesus, if you seek His plan for your life, if you stay in the Word, & if you step out in faith to do what is pleasing to Him.