



## “DETOURS – THE UNPREDICTABLE PATH TO YOUR DESTINY”

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- 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*.
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**Biblical Study of Book:**  
**‘Detours – Lessons from Joseph’**  
**By: Tony Evans (Chapter 2)**

### **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:**

### **GENESIS 37**

In verses 1-11:

1. How would you describe Joseph’s relationship with his brothers?
2. Could Joseph have prevented the jealousy of his brothers? Why or why not?
3. How would you describe his relationship with his father Jacob?

4. In verses 21-27 Reuben and Judah came to Joseph's defense. Why would these two, of all the brothers, try to save Joseph?

5. How do you see God's sovereign hand at work throughout this chapter?

6. How do you see God's hand at work in your own life?

### **LOOKING DEEPER**

- We are told in **Genesis 37:3** that Jacob made Joseph a varicolored tunic. What was the significance of this tunic and what impact might that have had on his brothers?

- How was God already developing Joseph's gifts at the age of 17?

## **LOOKING REFLECTIVELY**

**God “broke” Joseph by taking him out of comfortable circumstances and stretching him. God often has to “break” us before He can use us.**

- How has God “broken” you? How did it “strengthen” you?

- Are you willing to let God do whatever He needs to in your life to make you usable to Him? If not, why? Be honest with the Lord, and ask Him to make you willing, trusting His loving and sovereign hand in your life.

## **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.