

*Behind
The Scenes*

God Is At Work....

Part III

First Two Weeks....

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

Behind The Scenes, God Is Preparing You For What Is Next

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles You Can't See

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Proven Character

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Humility In You

Key Passages

Genesis 37:2, 5-7, 9

2 Joseph, **a young man of seventeen**, was tending the flocks with his brothers, **and he brought their father a bad report about them.**

5 One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. 6 “Listen to this dream,” he said.

7 “We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and **bowed low before mine!**”

9 Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. “Listen, I have had another dream,” he said. “The sun, moon, and eleven stars **bowed low before me!**”

Genesis 50:18-20 (ESV)

18 His brothers also came and **fell down before him** and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?”

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it for good,**
TO BRING IT ABOUT THAT MANY PEOPLE SHOULD BE KEPT ALIVE, as they are today.

Introduction

As you travel along life's journey, *there will be moments* that simply don't make sense.

There will be doors that close *unexpectedly*.

People who walk out of your life *without explanation*.

Delays that frustrate you ~ Detours you never planned ~ Disappointments you never anticipated

There will be seasons when **IT APPEARS** that life has become **A COLLECTION OF RANDOM EVENTS**.

From our perspective, *they seem Coincidental*.

But one of the greatest lessons Scripture teaches is that

what appears to be coincidence is often **THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD**.

What *appears* to be an interruption may actually be *an introduction*.

What *appears* to be a setback may actually *be a setup*.

What *appears* to be a delay may actually be *divine development*.

What *appears* to be rejection may actually *be redirection*.

What *appears* to be loss may actually be God *making room for something greater*.

While we are *looking at events individually*...**GOD IS CONNECTING THEM COLLECTIVELY**.

While we are *living one chapter*...God is writing the entire story.

While we are frustrated with **WHAT WE CAN SEE**...God is faithfully working in places **WE CANNOT SEE**.

Introduction

If anyone's life looked like a series of *disconnected disappointments*, it was Joseph's.
A pit ~ A caravan ~ Potiphar's house ~ A false accusation ~ A prison cell ~ A forgotten promise.

At the time, *each event* seemed isolated and unfair.
But when we reach the end of Joseph's story, we discover they were not isolated at all.
THEY WERE INTERCONNECTED BY THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

What Joseph thought were interruptions were actually divine appointments.
What Joseph thought were delays were actually preparations for what's next
What Joseph thought were detours were actually the pathway to his destiny.

Joseph's life reminds us that *God is always doing more behind the scenes* than we can see *IN THE MOMENT.*

As we walk through his story, we will discover *THE FIVE TRUTHS* we have been learning throughout this study:

God regulates what is allowed...
Prepares us for what is next...
Fights battles we cannot see...
Produces proven character...
Humbles us so that when He elevates us...

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed *Genesis 37:18-20 (NLT)*

18 When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance.

As he approached, **they made plans to kill him.**

19 "Here comes the dreamer!" they said.

20 "Come on, **let's kill him** and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

His Brothers Hated Him...They Intended To Kill Him
There Is A Battle Between Their Plans and God's Purpose

God's Purpose Has **A PERMISSIVE WILL**

God **PERMITTED THEM** To Throw Him Into The Pit

So Often, We Are **Complaining About WHAT GOD PERMITS**, Not Knowing What Was Planned

Genesis 37:21-22 (NLT)

21 But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "**Let's not kill him**," he said.

22 "Why should we shed any blood? **Let's just throw him into this empty cistern** here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him."

Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

God Has Intercessors That Interrupt The Enemies' Intentions

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

When God Is Regulating What Is Allowed There Will Always Be Some....

“Just Happened Moments”

Genesis 37:25, 28 (NLT)

25 Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt.

28 So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

Genesis 39:1 (NLT)

1 When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Genesis 40:1-3 (NLT)

1 Some time later, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker offended their royal master.

2 Pharaoh became angry with these two officials,

3 and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, in the palace of the captain of the guard.

Genesis 41:8-9 (NLT)

8 The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant.

9 Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up....”

EACH CIRCUMSTANCE MOVED JOSEPH ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE PALACE

Behind The Scenes, God Is Preparing For What Is Next

Genesis 37:2, 13-14 (NLT)

2 When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks.

He worked for his half brothers. And Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

13 When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them." "I'm ready to go," Joseph replied.

14 "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron.

Joseph Is A Dreamer, Who Works For His Father ~ He Is Faithful As A Son

Genesis 39:5-6 (NLT)

5 From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished.

6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned.

Joseph Is An Administrator, Who Works For Potiphar ~ He Is Faithful As A Servant

Genesis 39:22-23 (NLT)

22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything.

Joseph Is An Administrator, Who Works For The Warden ~ He Is Faithful As A Prisoner

Behind The Scenes, God Is Preparing For What Is Next

Genesis 41:39-41 (NLT)

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “*Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are.*”

40 *You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours.”*

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “*I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.”*

EVERY ASSIGNMENT BECAME PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT

Luke 16:10-12 (NLT)

10 “*If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are **dishonest in little things**, you won’t be honest with **greater responsibilities**.*”

11 *And if you are **untrustworthy about worldly wealth**, who will trust you with **the true riches of heaven**?*

12 *And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?*

DON’T GET WEARY IN THIS SEASON, GOD IS PREPARING YOU FOR NEXT SEASON

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles You Can't See

Hebrews 7:14 (NLT)

*14 What I mean is, **OUR LORD CAME FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH**,
and Moses never mentioned priests coming from that tribe.*

*Joseph Probably Thinks All This Is **ABOUT HIM**...*

The Story Is About God's Covenant

*God **Allows and Arranges** For Joseph To Have The Position, The Popularity, and The Prestige
But It Was Judah That The Lord Was Protecting*

*God's purpose for Joseph is **not just saving Jacob**,
he is **not just saving his eleven brothers** and their family,
he is **not just saving the nation of Israel**,*

GOD IS USING JOSEPH TO SAVE THE MESSIANIC LINE!!!

*Remember This... Your Struggle Is Connected To Something Much Larger Than Yourself
God Is Fighting Battles You Can't See*

Revelation 5:5 (NLT)

*5 But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the heir to
David's throne, **HAS WON THE VICTORY**. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals."*

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Proven Character

Genesis 39:7-9, 12 (NLT)

7 and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded.
8 But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household.
9 *No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.*"

12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!"
Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

HIS INTEGRITY WAS ON DISPLAY

Joseph Was Receiving Promotion While His Character Was Being Proven
If God Can't Prove Your Character On Display, You Will Not Receive His Promotion

Genesis 50:18-21 (NLT)

18 Then his brothers came and *threw themselves down before Joseph.*
"Look, we are your slaves!" they said. 19 But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?
20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.* 21 No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children."

Joseph Could Have Become Bitter...Instead He Became Better Through The Process
THE PATH ENABLED HIM TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO INTENDED EVIL

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Humility In You

Genesis 37:5-9

5 One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. 6 “Listen to this dream,” he said.

*7 “We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and **bowed low before mine!**”*

*9 Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. “Listen, I have had another dream,” he said. “The sun, moon, and eleven stars **bowed low before me!**”*

Joseph began his story as a seventeen-year-old dreamer....He tells everyone his dreams.

*While the text never explicitly calls Joseph **proud,***

*THERE IS A YOUTHFUL CONFIDENCE AND IMMATURITY THAT **GOD PATIENTLY REFINES.***

By the end of Genesis, Joseph sounds very different.

*Genesis 50:20 ~ “ **God sent me before you...**”*

*The mature Joseph **refuses to take God's place.***

He no longer sees himself as the hero.

*He sees himself **as an instrument in God's hands.***

Humility is recognizing that your success is the result of God's providence...Not your own brilliance.

In Conclusion....

When The Journey Gets Frustrating...Remind Yourself

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With God All Things Are Possible



Kingdom Construction Campaign

Above And Beyond ~ Sunday, July 5th