



DETOURS : THE PIT

1. God wants to give you a DREAM and fulfill a DESTINY in your life.

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more....⁷ “Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.”...^{8b} So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. – from *Genesis 37:5-11 (ESV)*

2. On the journey to fulfilling your DESTINY you will often face DETOURS.

^{17b} So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.”...²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. ²⁴ And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. – from *Genesis 37:17-24 (ESV)*

3. Detours are DELAYS en route to your DESTINY.

4. We can see detours as DETRIMENTAL or DEVELOPMENTAL.

- a. There may be PAIN in detours...

- b. But there is also PURPOSE in detours.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. – *Genesis 45:4-5 (NIV)*

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

REFLECTION

- Have you ever faced detours on the journey to fulfilling a dream? How did you react to those unexpected detours? Looking back, were your detours more detrimental or developmental?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read *Genesis 37:17-25*.
 - After throwing Joseph in the pit, what were his brothers doing (v. 25)? What did this reveal about his brothers’ hearts? What was Joseph doing and how do you think he felt (see *Genesis 42:21*)?
 - Read *Acts 7:9*. Even though things looked bad for Joseph, why was he still confident in his God-given dreams? Similarly, how can we have faith even when we face overwhelming odds against us?
 - Where did Joseph’s brothers throw him into a pit (v. 17)?
- Read *2 Kings 6:11-17*. What else happened at that place 900 years later? Compare Elisha’s situation with Joseph’s situation in the pit.
- Read *Genesis 28:14-15* and *Genesis 46:3-4*.
 - Both before and after Joseph rose to power in Egypt, what did God promise to his father, Jacob (Israel)? Was this promise fulfilled (see *Exodus 1:7* and *Joshua 1:2-3*)?
 - What were some of the detours the people of Israel faced en route to this destiny (see *Exodus 1:13-14* and *Numbers 32:13*)?
 - Read *Genesis 48:21* and *Genesis 50:24*. Why were Jacob (Israel) and Joshua both confident in their God-given dreams, even as they were facing their own deaths?
 - Read *Joshua 1:5,9*. What commands did God give to Joshua and the people of Israel? How do these commands speak to us today?
- Read *Romans 8:28,32*. What “detours” did Jesus face? How do his detours give us confidence in whatever detours we face today?