

ROOTS

WHY GOD FORMS YOU BEFORE HE FULFILLS YOU

OPENING

CHURCH — I BELIEVE GOD DIDN'T BRING US HERE TONIGHT JUST TO ENCOURAGE US. HE BROUGHT US HERE TO **ALIGN US**. BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT GOD HASN'T SPOKEN.

IT'S THAT WE DON'T ALWAYS UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S DOING WHILE WE'RE WAITING. AND HERE'S THE TRUTH I NEED YOU TO CATCH EARLY:

GOD HAS ALREADY PUT THE PROMISE IN YOU... BUT HE WILL FORM YOU UNTIL HE CAN TRUST YOU WITH IT.

PERSONAL STORY/ TIE TO JOSEPH

SO WHEN JOSEPH SPENDS OVER A DECADE IN A PLACE THAT LOOKS LIKE DELAY, LOOKS BACKWARDS — WHAT IF IT WAS ACTUALLY GOD DEVELOPING YOU?

GOD WILL CONFRONT THE WAY WE THINK TO EXPOSE WHAT WE TRUST, BELIEVE AND DESIRE.

WE DON'T LOOK WISE TO THE WORLD. SO IT BECOMES HARD CAUSE –

TRANSITION TO JOSEPH

WE LOVE THE PROMISE. WE LOVE THE CALLING. WE LOVE WHEN GOD SAYS— “ALL THINGS ARE YOURS.”

BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS LOVE THE PROCESS THAT MAKES YOU READY FOR IT.

WE WANT THE ANSWER, THE OUTCOME...

WE WANT THE CROWN—BUT NOT THE FIRE THAT FORGES IT.

WE WANT THE PALACE—BUT NOT THE PRISON THAT PREPARES US FOR IT.

WE HATE THIS PART AND GET SO FRUSTRATED HERE, NOT EVEN REALIZING THAT WHEN

GOD DELAYS WHAT YOU ASKED FOR - IT'S JUST TO DEVELOP WHO YOU NEED TO BE TO CARRY IT.

THIS IS THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYER. IT'S WHERE FEAR STARTS FALLING OFF, PRESSURE STARTS LOSING ITS VOICE AND YOU START UNDERSTANDING THE CONFIDENCE THAT IN ALL THINGS- GOD WORKS TOGETHER- FOR HIS GLORY!

I DIDN'T JUST COME TO PREACH A MESSAGE, BUT RELEASE REVELATION THAT YOU'RE NOT IN A PRISON, DELAY, BETRAYAL BUT IN THE PLANTING OF YOUR ROOTS

SO TONIGHT— WE'RE GOING INTO THE LIFE OF JOSEPH... GENESIS CHAPTER 45

BUT WE'RE NOT STARTING IN THE PIT.

WE'RE NOT STARTING IN THE PRISON.

WE'RE STARTING AT THE END. WE ARE STARTING AT THE FULFILLMENT OF A LIFE THAT ENDURED FORMATION.

GENESIS 45:14-28:

14 **WEeping WITH JOY, HE EMBRACED** BENJAMIN, AND BENJAMIN DID THE SAME. 15 **THEN JOSEPH KISSED EACH OF HIS BROTHERS AND WEPT OVER THEM,** AND AFTER THAT THEY BEGAN TALKING FREELY WITH HIM.

PHARAOH INVITES JACOB TO EGYPT

16 THE NEWS SOON REACHED PHARAOH'S PALACE: "JOSEPH'S BROTHERS HAVE ARRIVED!" **PHARAOH AND HIS OFFICIALS WERE ALL DELIGHTED TO HEAR THIS.**

17 PHARAOH SAID TO JOSEPH, "TELL YOUR BROTHERS, 'THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO: LOAD YOUR PACK ANIMALS, AND HURRY BACK TO THE LAND OF CANAAN. 18 THEN GET YOUR FATHER AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILIES, AND RETURN HERE TO ME. I WILL GIVE YOU THE VERY BEST LAND IN EGYPT, AND YOU WILL EAT FROM THE BEST THAT THE LAND PRODUCES.'"

19 THEN PHARAOH SAID TO JOSEPH, "TELL YOUR BROTHERS, 'TAKE WAGONS FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT TO CARRY YOUR LITTLE CHILDREN AND YOUR WIVES, AND BRING YOUR FATHER HERE. 20 DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS, FOR THE BEST OF ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT IS YOURS.'"

21 SO THE SONS OF JACOB DID AS THEY WERE TOLD. JOSEPH PROVIDED THEM WITH WAGONS, AS PHARAOH HAD COMMANDED, AND HE GAVE THEM SUPPLIES FOR THE JOURNEY. 22 AND HE GAVE EACH OF THEM NEW CLOTHES—BUT TO BENJAMIN HE GAVE FIVE CHANGES OF CLOTHES AND 300 PIECES OF SILVER. 23 HE ALSO SENT HIS FATHER TEN MALE DONKEYS LOADED WITH THE FINEST PRODUCTS OF EGYPT, AND TEN FEMALE DONKEYS LOADED WITH GRAIN AND BREAD AND OTHER SUPPLIES HE WOULD NEED ON HIS JOURNEY.

24 SO JOSEPH SENT HIS BROTHERS OFF, AND AS THEY LEFT, HE CALLED AFTER THEM, "**DON'T QUARREL ABOUT ALL THIS ALONG**

THE WAY!” 25 AND THEY LEFT EGYPT AND RETURNED TO THEIR FATHER, JACOB, IN THE LAND OF CANAAN.

26 “JOSEPH IS STILL ALIVE!” THEY TOLD HIM. “AND HE IS GOVERNOR OF ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT!” JACOB WAS STUNNED AT THE NEWS—HE COULDN’T BELIEVE IT. 27 BUT WHEN THEY REPEATED TO JACOB EVERYTHING JOSEPH HAD TOLD THEM, AND WHEN HE SAW THE WAGONS JOSEPH HAD SENT TO CARRY HIM, THEIR FATHER’S SPIRITS REVIVED.

28 THEN JACOB EXCLAIMED, “IT MUST BE TRUE! MY SON JOSEPH IS ALIVE! I MUST GO AND SEE HIM BEFORE I DIE.”

FULFILLMENT

IT’S VERY INTERESTING TO BE THAT WE DON’T SEE A LOT OF SERMONS PREACHED ON THIS TEXT AND THIS PART OF JOSEPH’S STORY. THIS ISN’T THE GOOD STUFF... THE PIT, PRISON, FALSE ACCUSATION

WHEN WE STEP INTO **GENESIS 45:14–28** WE ARE NOT LOOKING AT POTENTIAL...WE ARE LOOKING AT FULFILLMENT.

THIS IS THE HARVEST.

THIS IS WHAT FAITHFULNESS LOOKS LIKE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SUFFERING.

WE SO OFTEN FOCUS ON THE ABUSE, MISTREATED, ABANDONED, FORGOTTEN PARTS. BUT I CAME TONIGHT TO SAY THIS—**JOSEPH’S SUFFERING HAD AN EXPIRATION DATE.**

HE DIDN'T JUST SURVIVE—HE THRIVED.

HIS LATTER DAYS WERE GREATER THAN HIS FORMER DAYS. AND EVEN THOUGH GOD TOOK HIM THE LONG WAY,

THE HARD WAY, THE UNEXPECTED WAY — HE STILL GOT THERE. AND **I CAME TO TELL SOMEBODY:**

YOU MAY NOT LIKE THE ROAD...BUT GOD HAS NOT CHANGED THE DESTINATION.

REMIND SOME FOLKS- YOUR BEST DAYS ARE STILL AHEAD!

MAIN QUESTION

SO HERE'S THE QUESTION WE'RE ANSWERING:

**WHAT IS GOD DOING
WHEN MY LIFE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HIS PROMISE?**

THAT WHAT IF HE IS POSITIONING YOU, ESTABLISHING YOU BEFORE HE CAN BEGIN TO TAKING YOU THROUGH THE ALIGNING YOUR POSTURE.

GOD IS PREPARING YOU SO YOU DON'T SELF-DESTRUCT WHEN THE PROMISE SHOWS UP.

POINT 1 — POSITION BEFORE POSTURE

GOD ALWAYS STARTS WITH POSITION. IT'S THE SIMPLE —

“COME FOLLOW ME.”

HE CALLS YOU BEFORE YOU CHANGE.

HE NAMES YOU BEFORE YOU PROVE IT.

HE SEATS YOU BEFORE YOU EARN IT.

BUT POSITION IS NOT THE FINISH LINE—IT'S THE STARTING POINT.

BECAUSE WHAT GOD GIVES YOU POSITIONALLY...HE WILL TEST YOU POSTURALLY.

LOOK AT PSALM 105:18–19:

“UNTIL THE TIME CAME...THE LORD TESTED JOSEPH'S CHARACTER.”

NOT THE PRISON. NOT THE BROTHERS. NOT PEOPLE-POTIFERS WIFE, CUPBEAR & BAKER. NO IT WAS —

THE LORD.

WHICH MEANS WHAT FELT LIKE DELAY — WAS ACTUALLY DESIGNED.

WHAT FELT LIKE OPPOSITION — WAS ACTUALLY ORCHESTRATION.

AND HERE'S THE TRUTH:

GOD WILL TEST YOU TO SEE IF YOUR HEART STAYS ALIGNED WITH HIS WORD UNDER PRESSURE.

NOT WHEN IT'S EASY. NOT WHEN IT MAKES SENSE.

BUT WHEN YOU'RE CONFUSED. WHEN YOU'RE MISUNDERSTOOD. WHEN YOU'RE FORGOTTEN.

WILL YOUR HEART STILL SAY YES?

TRANSITION

AND THIS IS THE RHYTHM OF THE KINGDOM:

**GOD MAY START YOU WITH POSITION...SEED, CAPTIVATION
BUT THEN HE SUSTAINS YOU THROUGH ROOTS.**

POINT 2 — ROOTS BEFORE FRUIT

WE LOVE TO TALK ABOUT FRUIT.

BUT GOD IS AFTER ROOTS. BECAUSE FRUIT IS PUBLIC. BUT
ROOTS ARE PRIVATE.

**IF YOUR POSITION ISN'T ROOTED — YOUR POSTURE WON'T
LAST.**

FRUIT IS WHAT PEOPLE SEE. ROOTS ARE WHAT HOLD YOU
TOGETHER WHEN LIFE GETS HARD.

JOSEPH DIDN'T BECOME STRONG IN THE PALACE.

HE BECAME ROOTED — IN THE PIT AND THE PRISON.

LOOK AT ISAIAH 61:3:

“THEY WILL BE CALLED OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS...”

YOU DON'T BECOME AN OAK IN PUBLIC.

YOU BECOME AN OAK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
IN HIDDEN, DARK, PRESSURED PLACES. IN THE DESPAIR,
BROKENESS AND MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHY... **BECAUSE**
ITS NEVER THE “WHAT” THAT KILLS YOU ITS ALWAYS THE
“WHY”!

**GOD IS NOT AFTER WHAT YOU CAN PRODUCE – HE'S MORE
AFTER WHAT YOU ARE PLANTED IN.**

ROOTS ARE:

DEVELOPED IN DARKNESS
STRENGTHENED UNDER PRESSURE
PROVEN OVER TIME — IT IS THE SUPERNATURAL MIRACLE.
ONLY GRACE CAN GET YOU THROUGH.

LOOK AT PSALM 1:3:

“LIKE A TREE PLANTED...
WHICH YIELDS FRUIT IN ITS SEASON...” ANOTHER
TRANSLATION SAY IT LIKE

”HE WILL BE STANDING FIRM LIKE A FLOURISHING TREE
PLANTED BY GOD’S DESIGN, DEEPLY ROOTED BY THE
BROOKS OF BLISS, **BEARING FRUIT IN EVERY SEASON OF
LIFE. HE IS NEVER DRY, NEVER FAINTING, EVER BLESSED,
EVER PROSPEROUS**

NOTICE— FRUIT HAS A SEASON. ROOTS ARE BUILT IN EVERY
SEASON.

IF YOU DON’T LIKE YOUR FRUIT— CHECK YOUR ROOTS.

POSITION SLOWS US DOWN ENOUGH TO GET PLANTED.
ROOTS CONNECT US TO THE SOURCE!

KINGDOM KEY

THE PRESSURE IN YOUR LIFE IS NOT REVEALING GOD...

IT IS REVEALING YOUR ROOT SYSTEM.

LOOK AT JEREMIAH 17:7–8:

7 “BUT BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD
AND **HAVE MADE THE LORD THEIR HOPE AND CONFIDENCE.**

8 THEY ARE LIKE TREES PLANTED ALONG A RIVERBANK,

WITH ROOTS THAT REACH DEEP INTO THE WATER.
SUCH TREES ARE NOT BOTHERED BY THE HEAT
OR WORRIED BY LONG MONTHS OF DROUGHT.
THEIR LEAVES STAY GREEN, AND THEY NEVER STOP
PRODUCING FRUIT.

“HE WILL NOT FEAR WHEN HEAT COMES...”

THE DIFFERENCE IS NOT THE HEAT OR DROUGHT—IT’S THE
ROOTS.

SO, WHAT IS YOUR TRUST IN? CIRCUMSTANCE, PEOPLE,
STATUS, FEELINGS?

WHO IS YOUR SOURCE... AND LOOK AT JOHN 15:5:

5 “I AM THE VINE... **AS YOU LIVE IN UNION WITH ME AS YOUR
SOURCE, FRUITFULNESS WILL STREAM FROM WITHIN
YOU**—BUT WHEN YOU LIVE SEPARATED FROM ME YOU ARE
POWERLESS. OR “APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.”

CHOOSING TO LIVE WITH HIM AS YOUR SOURCE IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY. FRUIT IS NOT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY—
CONNECTION IS.

WE DON’T STRIVE FOR FRUIT— JUST STAY CONNECTED FOR
FLOW. FRUIT IS NOT FORCED—**FRUIT IS EVIDENCE.**

KINGDOM FLOW

POSITION → POSTURE → ROOTS → FRUIT

POSITION — WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE

POSTURE — HOW YOU RESPOND

ROOTS — YOUR STRENGTH UNDER PRESSURE

FRUIT — WHAT OTHERS SEE

YOU WERE NEVER CALLED TO BLOOM FAST, YOU WERE CALLED TO BE A MIGHTY OAK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

POINT 3 — FORMATION BEFORE FULFILLMENT

NOW WATCH THIS—FULFILLMENT IS NOT A MOMENT. **IT'S A RESULT.**

GOD DOES NOT JUST GIVE YOU PROMISE...HE BUILDS YOU!

BECAUSE IF GOD GAVE YOU WHAT YOU ASKED FOR TOO EARLY. IT WOULDN'T BLESS YOU— IT WOULD BREAK YOU.

GOD KNEW HE WAS FORMING A RULER WHO WOULDN'T BE CORRUPTED BY POWER. IT WAS GOD WHO GAVE JOSEPH THE DREAM- EVEN WHEN HIS BROTHERS HATED HIM.

GOD WAS TESTING THIS: AND I WANT YOU TO WRITE THESE QUESTIONS DOWN AND GET REAL HONEST WITH YOURSELF THIS WEEK, TAKE A PICTURE ON THE SCREEN WHATEVER YOU GOTTA DO.

1. HOW YOU HANDLE ADVANTAGE?
2. CAN YOUR LOVE SURVIVE A FALL? BETRAYAL
3. DO YOU HAVE THE GRACE TO ACCOMEDATE PEOPLE CHANGING?
4. HOW EMOTIONALLY HONEST ARE YOU?
5. CAN YOU BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU?

ADAM COMES FOR CLOSING

JOSEPH PURPOSE REVEALED

JOSEPH DIDN'T JUST GET A POSITION—HE BECAME A PERSON AND IMAGE BEARER.- **THAT'S OUR POSITION!**

HE COULD FORGIVE. **POSTURE- RIGHT RESPONSE.**

HE COULD TRUST GOD IN PAIN. **ROOTS THAT WERE DEEP.**

HE COULD HANDLE POWER WITHOUT LOSING HIS HEART.

“WHAT YOU MEANT FOR EVIL— GOD USED FOR GOOD.”

JOSEPH SPENT OVER 15 YEARS, ALLOWING GOD TO: REORDER HIS LOVES, RENEW HIS MIND, STRENGTH HIS ROOTS, AND ALIGN HIS IDENTITY WHILE BUILDING CHRISTLIKENESS.

GOD'S FULFILLMENT IN YOU – IS WHEN YOU CAN SEE GOD'S HAND IN EVERYTHING THAT TRIED TO BREAK YOU.

AND HIS GOODNESS PRODUCED PERFECT GIFTS: A FAMILY RESTORED, A PEOPLE UNIFIED, AND A NATION PRESERVED TO CONTINUE GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN OF RESTORATION.

CLOSING

SO, FULFILLMENT IS NOT:

A PLATFORM. A TITLE. A MOMENT YOU ARE GLORIFIED.

FULFILLMENT IS: WHEN YOUR LIFE BECOMES PROOF/ EVIDENCE THAT GOD'S WAY WORKS AND IS SO MUCH BETTER.

JOB, JOSEPH & JESUS ARE ALL PROOF GOD'S LEADING ENDS BETTER THAN HOW IT STARTS!

SO TRUST ME I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE FRUSTRATED
BECAUSE YOUR LIFE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE PROMISE.

BUT HEAR ME—

YOU'RE NOT BEHIND! YOU'RE BEING BUILT.

YOU'RE NOT DELAYED! YOU'RE BEING DEVELOPED.

YOU'RE NOT STUCK! YOU'RE BEING ROOTED.

AND GOD IS SAYING: **I WILL NOT RELEASE YOU UNTIL I CAN
TRUST YOU.**

**SO GOD SENT ME TO TELL YOU IF YOU CAN GET YOUR
ATTITUDE FIXED, YOUR FOCUS SET ON THE RIGHT THINGS —
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO SHIFT TONIGHT!**

JOSEPH DIDN'T JUST SURVIVE THE WHAT...**HE FORGAVE THE
PEOPLE WHO PUT HIM THERE.**

AND THAT RIGHT THERE— IS WHAT PROVED HE WAS READY.

THE DREAM WAS CONNECTED TO FAMILY – JOSEPH WAS
FAMINED FROM CONNECTION.

BECAUSE LISTEN —YOU CAN HAVE POSITION AND STILL BE
BITTER.

YOU CAN HAVE AUTHORITY AND STILL BE WOUNDED.

YOU CAN HAVE OPPORTUNITY AND STILL BE OFFENDED.

BUT YOU CANNOT WALK IN TRUE FULFILLMENT – WHILE
HOLDING ON TO UNFORGIVENESS.

SO WHEN JACOB COMES DOWN TO EGYPT THE FAMILY WAS 70 IN TOTAL, AND THE YEAR OF PLENTY & FAMINE WERE 7 YEARS.

THE REDEPTIVE PATTERN

- **7 YEARS OF PLENTY + 7 YEARS OF FAMINE = A COMPLETE CYCLE OF TESTING**
- **70 FAMILY MEMBERS = A COMPLETE RESTORATION OF PEOPLE**
- **70 X 7 FORGIVENESS = A COMPLETE POSTURE OF GRACE**

SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WELL, JESUS SAID IT LIKE THIS IN **MATTHEW 18:21–22: “NOT SEVEN TIMES... BUT SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.”**

WHICH WAS NOT A NUMBER—IT WAS A REVELATION.

IT MEANS: **YOU DON'T KEEP SCORE WHEN YOU LIVE IN GRACE.**

REDEMPTION IS BIRTHED WHEN A COMPLETE PROCESS MEETS A COMPLETE POSTURE.

SO LOOK—GOD BROUGHT JOSEPH THROUGH A **COMPLETE PROCESS (7 & 7)**...BUT THE BREAKTHROUGH DIDN'T COME UNTIL JOSEPH HAD A **COMPLETE HEART (70 X 7 FORGIVENESS)**.

THE SEASON WAS COMPLETE—BUT SO WAS HIS FORGIVENESS.

JOSEPH DIDN'T JUST SURVIVE THE 14 YEARS. HE CAME OUT WITH A HEART THAT COULD:

- **EMBRACE HIS BROTHERS**

- RESTORE HIS FATHER
- SUSTAIN A NATION

WHEN YOUR PROCESS IS COMPLETE AND YOUR HEART IS COMPLETE— REDEMPTION IS INEVITABLE.

AND HERE'S THE TRUTH WE DON'T ALWAYS WANT TO HEAR:
UNFORGIVENESS DOES NOT PROTECT YOU...IT ACTUALLY
IMPRISONS YOU.

IT KEEPS YOU LOCKED TO THE MOMENT THAT HURT YOU.

IT KEEPS YOUR ROOTS TIED TO PAIN INSTEAD OF PLANTED IN
GOD.

AND SOME OF YOU— YOU'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR
FULFILLMENT...BUT YOU'RE STILL HOLDING ON TO WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOU.

AND GOD IS SAYING: I WANT TO TRUST YOU WITH MORE...
BUT I NEED YOU FREE FIRST.

BECAUSE FORGIVENESS IS NOT SAYING: "WHAT THEY DID WAS
OKAY." FORGIVENESS IS SAYING:

"WHAT THEY DID WILL NOT CONTROL WHO I BECOME."

JOSEPH LOOKED AT THE VERY PEOPLE WHO BROKE HIM...

AND SAID: "WHAT YOU MEANT FOR EVIL— GOD USED FOR
GOOD."

THAT IS NOT WEAKNESS. THAT IS FORMATION COMPLETE.

SO PLEASE, DON'T LET THE ONLY THING STAND BETWEEN YOU
AND THE NEXT SEASON... BE UNFORGIVENESS!