

## Miracles out of Mistakes

Pastor Christopher Miller

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The Book of Genesis 37:18-28, <sup>18</sup>They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. <sup>19</sup>They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. <sup>20</sup>Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. <sup>b1</sup> Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.”<sup>21</sup> But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” <sup>22</sup>And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. <sup>23</sup>So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. <sup>24</sup>And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup>Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup>Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? <sup>27</sup>Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. <sup>28</sup>Then Midianite traders

passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

I know that the following question will sound like an insane one to ask but have you ever made a mistake? Now before you begin to laugh or respond in the affirmative, I mean a huge mistake. One of those situations where there is no one else you can blame, there is no one you can point at, you can't cast off responsibility on anyone else because you did this; you know that you did it.

When we read our Bibles, we discover story after story of people making terrible decisions that caused plagues and judgments to befall them, empires to implode, Kings and kingdoms to perish and even drove God Himself to have to intervene to defer the impact of the mistakes of humanity. We can read the story of Moses becoming enraged and beating a man to death but then being called to deliver a nation. A miracle out of a messy situation...

We can read the story of the Apostle Paul who evangelized the modern world but we often fail to remember that this very same man is who held men's jackets while Stephen was stoned in Acts chapter 7. Again, a miracle out of a messy situation...

Note how these two stories both begin with massive, life altering Mistakes that, after a period of time and by the Hand of God, turns into a Miracle. And the even greater miracle of these situations is how their mistakes did not alter the purpose that God had set forth for their lives.

Take our opening text for example... Joseph is thrown into a pit which was a dried up well. He is surrounded by enemies who had the impudence to sit and eat while they brewed over what to do with him; kill him or leave him for dead. And then Joseph is then sold into slavery.

Now many preachers would keep on plowing and talk about how his betrayal was the factor that set him up for the throne but there is something that many have missed. He was sold to Ishmaelites; now this is where the text gets very interesting indeed. Ishmael has been called a mistake for a millennium of time because of Abraham having laid with Hagar and she having borne Ishmael.

He was not the son of the Promise which was meant to be born to Sarah but God turned what man called a Mistake into a Miracle on that day. A Mistake found Joseph in a place of dried up resources, surrounded by his enemies and what Man called a Mistake God turned into a Miracle and saved Joseph out of that pit. Ishmael the Mistake set Joseph the Son of Promise up for the throne of Egypt which ultimately saved the nation of Israel. A mistake performed a miracle unknowingly.

But none of this would have happened had not a Mistake named Ishmael met a man betrayed by his brothers. That day a Mistake became a Miracle! And there are so many of us whose lives are littered with mistakes that have become areas of bondage in our lives and we can't seem to get delivered from the mistakes of our yesterday.

One day soon, your pain is going to preach! One day soon, your tests are going to testify! One day soon, your testimony will prophecy! Quit letting your failures formulate the snapshot of what your future will be! T.D. Jakes declared, "Face the Giants in your life, slay them, and move on. Do not be daunted by the mistakes and failures in your life." Thus Point #1...

## 1. Our Mistakes do not Wield the Power to Disqualify Us from our Miracles!

- a. The Book of Romans 8:26-28, <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup> Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

- b. Church hear me today! He called us unto His purpose therefore our mistakes do not disqualify us from His purpose for our life. Our past should never be allowed to prophesy into our purpose!
- c. Jesus is the only one who has the power to do that! Many of us think that God didn't know what He was getting into when HE called us.
- d. Friends, Jesus isn't surprised by what is wrong with us because He has already looked past our faults and saw our needs! Stop allowing your mistakes disqualify the purpose of God for your life!
- e. When the enemy keeps pointing to your past failures, there must be something about your future that he does not want you to see!!! And when he points to your sins, point him to the cross!
- f. Remember, Our Mistakes do not Wield the Power to Disqualify Us from our Miracles!

## 2. Mistakes do not Wield the Power to Dissuade our Persuasion of a Miracle!

- a. 2 Timothy 1:12, "12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

- b. It is time to silence your mistakes and stop giving them room to form opinions. How often have we balanced the call of God on the scales against our past?
- c. Here we were this morning. Jesus did not ask the water's permission to walk on it, He simply commanded it to hold Him up.
- d. Stop consulting your mistakes for their permission to walk out the call of God for your life; simply utilize it to be a resource to learn from and not an anchor to hold you at port!
- e. It's time to set sail in the faith and see where the Wind of God takes you!
- f. Remember, Mistakes do not Wield the Power to Dissuade our Persuasion of a Miracle! And Point #3...

### 3. Mistakes do not Wield the Power to Dictate our Destiny of Experiencing a Miracle!

- a. Philippians 3:13-14, <sup>13</sup>“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup>I PRESS toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- b. Some of us need to glean from this text and see the value in doing some “forgetting” and doing some “reaching” and doing some “pressing”
- c. Your mistakes do not define you; they have prepared you. Stop giving something, that Jesus died to redeem you from, authority in your life.
- d. Turn to your neighbor and tell ‘em “Release it and Let it go!”  
You’ve been anchored in harbor for too long. It’s time to move forward! Catch and release; not catch and deep fry.
- e. I am thankful that the mistakes of my yesterday do not determine the trajectory of my life! I am thankful that where I am going in this life is not determined by where I came from! I am thankful that He calls us by what He sees and not by what we’ve done.
- f. I close with this thought: If God can use a mistake to unlock a miracle season in the life of Joseph, then God can cause your mistakes to unlock a miracle season in your life as well. Jesus can make Miracles out of Messes!

(Altar Time)