

What Shall I Do With My Freedom?

Psalm 105:17-22 | Part 18, Psalms Series | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

What will you do with the freedom and favor God has given you?

I. The Text: A Man Sent Before Them

Key Text: *Psalm 105:17-22*

- Joseph was sold as a servant. His feet hurt in fetters. He was laid in irons until his word came to pass.
- This wasn't only freedom. There was favor on his life the whole time.

II. What Favor Actually Is

- Favor is unmerited. It can't be earned. Ephesians 2:8, saved by grace through faith, not of yourselves.
- Favor is not a free pass to live however you want. Ephesians 4:7, grace given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- You can't compare the measure of favor on your life to someone else's. Isaiah used his own life as an example: at 26, he hasn't walked the roads that older, more seasoned men in ministry have walked yet, and that's fine.

III. Joseph Gets the Dream

Key Text: *Genesis 37*

- Joseph found favor with his father before he found it anywhere else. The coat of many colors was proof of that favor.
- He told his brothers his dream, and they wouldn't even call him by name anymore. They called him "the dreamer."
- Rejection isn't personal. People don't reject you, they react to what's inside you.

IV. Sold and Left for Dead

- Brothers threw him in the pit, then sold him for silver.
- The coat came back covered in goat's blood. Joseph's whole life afterward was covered by something goat's blood could never provide, the blood of the Lamb.
- Ishmael and the Midianites, people who felt abandoned and unwanted, found each other. Sometimes you need people who understand what you've walked through.

V. Faithful in the Dark: Potiphar's House and Prison

Key Text: *Ruth 2*

- Joseph wouldn't trade his purpose for something temporary, and it cost him. He landed in prison anyway.
- Same principle in Ruth: she did her best with what she had, and favor met her in the field of Boaz.
- Joseph interpreted dreams for the butler and the baker, then was forgotten for two years. He stayed faithful anyway.
- Vision and sight are different. He couldn't see the sun, moon, and stars from a cell, but he held on to what God had already shown him.

VI. From the Prison to the Palace

Key Text: *Genesis 45:4-8*

- Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and was put in charge of preparing Egypt for famine.
- When his brothers came back for food, he told them, "God sent me before you to preserve life."
- What the enemy meant for evil, God used for good.

VII. Forgiveness Is Not the Same as Reconciliation

- Forgiveness is something you do for yourself. Reconciliation is a relationship you rebuild, and it takes time.
- Joseph tested his brothers with the silver cup before he restored the relationship. Don't rush it.
- What you've been through changes how you preach, how you love, and how much compassion you have for people later on.

Closing

- The people who once sold you out may one day need exactly what's in you.
 - Whatever pit or prison you're in right now, your word is coming.
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FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Where in your life do you feel like Joseph, in the pit or the prison, waiting for your word to come to pass?
 2. Have you ever compared the favor on your life to someone else's? What would it look like to trust your own season instead?
 3. Is there someone who's wronged you, and are you wrestling with forgiveness or reconciliation right now?
 4. Has what God showed you started to feel far from your current circumstances? How are you holding on to it anyway?
 5. What will you do with the freedom and favor God has given you?
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Scripture References: Psalm 105:17-22 | Genesis 37 | Ephesians 2:8 | Ephesians 4:7 | Genesis 45:4-8 | Ruth 2 | Romans 8:28 | 2 Corinthians 4:17