

DEALING WITH YOUR DESTINY!

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TEXT:

Genesis 12:1-4

1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

SUBJ: Dealing with your Destiny!

INTRO: In this passage of scripture, GOD tells Abram to leave his country, his kindred and his father to go to a land that he will shew him.

And he will make of him a great nation, and I will bless him, and make his name great; and he shall be a blessing.

(QUESTION) How many of y'all believe that GOD has a great Destiny in store for you?

GOD told Jeremiah in
Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

(MESSAGE)

11 I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

(CEV)

11 I will bless you with a future filled with hope—a future of success, not of suffering.

(EXPOUND) GOD says as it relates to your life, "I know what I'm doing, I have it all planned out, I'm going to take care of you and give you a future filled with hope and success!"

Now, I don't know about you, but to me, that's good news!

(NOTE: That's really enough for me to give GOD some PRAISE!)

(EXP#) To know that GOD has a plan for my life: As no-good, low-down, messed-up, damaged, hurt, broken, selfish and ungrateful as I am, to know that GOD has a plan for me, is enough for me to celebrate GOD today!

(EXP#) To know that, even though I messed up in my past, my past didn't mess up my future, that's enough for me to shout and tell GOD Thank You!
(HALLELUJAH!!!!)

GOD said, "I have a plan for your life!"

David tells us in
Psalm 37:23

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

(EXPOUND) Meaning, "You can be happy in knowing, that GOD has the steps of your life, already planned out for you!"

That's why Solomon said in
Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

(EXPOUND) He said, "Don't you try to figure it out, because GOD already has your life planned out! Just check with GOD first and he'll tell you where to go and how to get there!"

GOD said, "I know what I'm doing, I have your life all planned out. I know where I'm bringing you, but you have to travel the road!"

BODY:

#1 It's going to take direction!

(EXPOUND) People of GOD, You have to be open and willing to receive instructions!

(NOTE: In other words, you need to have a teachable spirit!)

(QUESTION) How many of y'all know that one of the things that can keep you from experiencing the next level of GOD in your life, is when you don't have a teachable spirit?

(NOTE: When you have a spirit that can't be taught OR that is not receptive to instructions and directions, you'll never experience all that GOD has for you!)

2 Kings 5:8-11

8 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. 11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

(EXPOUND) See when you don't have a teachable spirit, it makes you unreceptive to instructions and it can make you miss out on what GOD is trying to do in your life!

(EXP#) When you don't have a teachable spirit, it makes you unreceptive to instructions for you to go home and anoint your house from the front door to the back and everybody in there, and it makes you miss out on the turn around that GOD is trying to release in your home!

(EXP#) When you don't have a teachable spirit, it makes you unreceptive to instructions for you to sow that hundred dollars seed offering, and it makes you miss out on the overflow that GOD is trying to release in your life!

(EXP#) When you don't have a teachable spirit, it makes you unreceptive to instructions for you to walk around the new house OR car by faith, and it makes you miss out on the new house that GOD is trying to give you!

That's why Solomon said in
Proverbs 19:20

20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

(AMP)

20 Listen to counsel, receive instruction, *and* accept correction, That you may be wise in the time to come.

(EXPOUND) He said, "Receive instruction, so that when the time comes later, you'll be wise about it because you already know how to deal with it when it comes."

(EXP#) If you receive instructions and directions about how to deal with your problems, when the problems come, you'll be wise and know to cast all your cares upon him because he cares for you!

(EXP#) If you receive instructions and directions about how to deal with your enemies, when the time comes and they come against you, you'll be wise and know that no weapon formed against me shall prosper!

(EXP#) If you receive instructions and directions about how to get your needs met, when the time comes and you have a need, you'll be wise and know that my GOD shall supply all my needs according to his riches and glory in Christ JESUS!

See having a teachable spirit and being able to receive instructions is a blessing to you!

Proverbs 13:18

18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

(EXPOUND) Being able to receive instruction, is a blessing and an honor for your life!

But if you refuse instruction, it'll bring shame and humiliation in your life!

Luke 5:4-6

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

(EXPOUND) Simon said Lord, I'm heeding to your instructions and advice.

#2 It's going to take discipline!

(EXPOUND) Understand that in order for you to achieve or accomplish anything great, you have to be a person of great focus!

(NOTE: You can't focus on the distractions around you, and still see where GOD is bringing you!)

Matthew 14:30

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

(EXPOUND) A lot of us start sinking and failing, when we start looking at what's happening around us, instead of staying focused on where GOD is

bringing us!

(NOTE: And a lot of times we want to blame the devil when we lose focus, but the reality is that when we lose focus it's our own fault!)

David said in

Psalms 25:15

15 Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord ; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

(MSG)

15 If I keep my eyes on God, I won't trip over my own feet.

(EXPOUND) If you keep your eyes on GOD, you won't mess yourself up!

(NOTE: We can't blame nobody else when we lose focus!) Peter was the only one who stepped out of the boat!

You can't be a person who's easily distracted, because if you're easily distracted, you're easily to fail.

David said in

Psalms 141:8

8 But mine eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.

(EXPOUND) If you stay focus on JESUS, you won't be distracted by what's happening on the outside, because your trust is anchored in GOD on the inside!

(NOTE: So no matter what's happening around, I keep looking at JESUS!)

CONCLUSION:

#3 And you have accept his discipline!

Sometimes in life, as a child of god we have to be disciplined!

And How many of y'all will be honest admit that 10 out of 10 times, when we are disciplined, it's because we've done something to deserve it!

(NOTE: GOD will never just out of the blue say, I'm going to discipline him, just to discipline him.) No, there's always a reason for his discipline.

(EXP#) When you were a child there was a reason why your mother whipped you!

(NOTE: Unless your mama was like Penny's mama from Good Times!)

Sometimes GOD has to discipline us and he disciplines' us because we've done something to deserve it!

Hebrews 12:5-8

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

(EXPOUND) If you can't accept GOD's chastisement and discipline, then you can't be GOD's child!

(NOTE: In other words, as my mama used to say, "If you can't live under by my rules, you can't live in under my roof!")

I'm not going to take care of you, if you're not going to do what I say do!

(EXP#) We're no longer his enemies, we're now his friends!

(EXP#) We're no longer bastards, we're now his babies!

And because we are his babies, sometimes he has to discipline us!