

The Proof of Detours

Genesis 39:19-23

Introduction

Many people wonder how they know they're on the right road to their destiny, especially when the situations in their lives don't seem to confirm that. We learned last week that there are detours to destiny and those detours follow patterns. This week, you are learning there are signs or proofs that you are on the right road to your destiny and that your detours are simply God-designed or allowed.

First, persecution might be a proof. If you are being persecuted for righteousness sake, it could be a sign that you are on the right road. Our journey to our destiny is not always going to be smooth. Resistance, difficulty, and undeserved mistreatment by others can be an indicator that you are headed in the right direction. Just like Joseph wound up in jail while living a righteous life, the same can happen to us. And when persecution occurs, it doesn't mean we aren't on the right track.

Next, the presence of God is a gauge that you are in the right place. Joseph was blessed to advance even while he was held unjustly in jail. If positive things are happening in your life while you are walking through a dark hour - that can be God's validation of His presence in your life.

Joseph also took the opportunity while incarcerated to serve others. If you notice that there are people crossing your path with whom you can minister, even while you are waiting on God - that can be proof you are exactly where you need to be. Don't allow your circumstances to determine your service to others.

Lastly, if you think that God is about to provide deliverance and then you experience an unexpected postponement of your breakthrough, hold on! A delay is a sign that deliverance is on its way.

Getting Started

1. What one point resonated with you from this morning's sermon?
2. Prior to hearing today's sermon, were you aware of the four proofs of detours and looking at life through these lenses?

Let's Get Personal

1. Are you currently in a situation where you are being persecuted? Is it because you are in the wrong or is it unjust mistreatment and you are in the right?
2. Tell your group about a time when you have experienced God's unique blessing in the midst of a difficult situation.
3. Has God brought people across your path to serve while you're in the midst of your circumstances? Who are the people that you have had the opportunity to serve because you have been placed in this difficult situation?
4. When was the last time you felt that your deliverance was postponed? How did that make you feel? Are you now convinced that a delay can be a part of your destiny?

Take the Next Step

1. *The detours on our journey to destiny give us great opportunity to learn to trust in God.* Read James 5:7-12 and discuss with your group what you learn from this passage that deals with waiting on God.
2. After the message, "Proof of Detours," how will your outlook be different going forward? How will this knowledge affect your actions and activities this week?

Renew Your Mind

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28