

## The Promotion of Detours

*Genesis 41:1-16*

### Introduction

Detours may seem to delay our destiny but they simply reroute us and give us another way to get where God wants us to end up! How do you know when God is moving you off the detour and onto the “main” road to destiny?

First, it will appear that all of your human efforts are ineffective in changing your situation. God may see fit to block your efforts as He sets you up for His best, His glory, and your good. Sometimes it may seem that you are on the verge of a breakthrough and then God chooses to close the door. Joseph made efforts to influence a change in his situation and find a way out of prison. He asked the cupbearer to remember him upon his release but the cupbearer forgot (Genesis 40:14, 23). While things were postponed, there was a reason... God was up to something great!

Second, sometimes God will do something outside of your control for which there is no natural explanation. In the story of Joseph, Pharaoh had a dream that he didn't understand. He couldn't interpret that dream nor could his magicians or wise men. This situation had absolutely nothing to do with Joseph, but it was a setup for his eventual promotion to the next level of his life.

Lastly, a promotion is on the horizon when other people “remember” you. God has a way of giving His people favor with others. When Pharaoh couldn't understand his dreams, the cupbearer remembered Joseph and pleaded Joseph's case to Pharaoh. Even when it seems like you can't do anything else to change your situation, God can raise up others who will fight for you when He deems it to be your time.

### Getting Started

1. *What one point resonated with you from this morning's sermon?*
2. *After hearing today's sermon, where are you on the road to your destiny? Detoured? In promotion? Walking in your destiny?*

### Let's Get Personal

1. What efforts have you made to make changes in your situation that seem “blocked” or ineffective? Have you experienced closed doors?
2. Is there anything happening in your life right now that might be a “setup” for your promotion?
3. God will allow others, both believers and non-believers alike, to “remember you” when He wants to move you to another place or level in His plan for our life. Can you share with your group a time when you sensed God giving you favor with others?

### Take the Next Step

1. The journey to our destiny can seem long at times. The key is to stay focused on God and to look for Him even in your detours. What will you choose to focus on this week in lieu of focusing on the negative of your circumstances?
2. It is the work of Satan to discourage or tempt us to complain and/or distrust God in our season of detours. Since God is always at work for His glory and our best, how will you choose to walk humbly and in thanksgiving this week?
3. For further encouragement from the Word on being patient and humble in the midst of detours, read from 1 Peter 3:6 and James 4:6-10.

### Renew Your Mind

***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28***

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