

From Destruction to Deliverance!

Genesis 50:15-20 - Joseph Reassures His Brothers

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

March 15, 1990 - In the Bering Sea just off Alaskan coast the Crab boat "Alaskan Monarch" encountered a Storm that blew in rocked the boat unexpectedly.

Waves swelled to 15-20 ft. They Radioed for help and Soon the Coast Guard helicopters hovering One by one, picked the sailors from deck, First 4 rescued safely, left was the captain and chief engineer, Chuck West

Mr. West's Account of the Story: He and captain were down below rescuing important documents. ***Suddenly a large chunk of ice ripped open the bow.*** The captain gave orders to **"Abandon Ship"**. They went topside and waited for the helicopters to pick them up. While they were waiting ***a large wave swept over the boat and swept them both into icy waters...***

Mr. West had a large ice chunk weighing him down and kept pushing him under. He would bob to the surface just long enough to get some air repeatedly...

Finally, he came up once and saw another wave crashing toward him, ***in the wave were huge chunks of ice!!!***

He said: "I thought, this was it, this is the wave that's going to kill me."

As the wave washed over him, ***not only did none of the ice chunks touch him***, but ***the wave swept the block of ice from him that was pressing him down!***

He was then able to come to the surface and the coast guard rescued him!

Mr. West something in his interview that has really stuck with me:
“It’s amazing, the wave that I thought was going to kill me, saved my life!!!

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I feel this morning as though someone in this place is feeling as though you’re in that exact situation:

- Things were going well for you
- ***Suddenly without warning*** a wave of tribulation has swept you from your place of firm footing into a sea of confusion...
- Now, your problems are pressing you under and it’s all you can do to come up now and then *for another gasp of air...*
- Maybe this morning, you were able to *lift your head and look around* -
- But instead of the rescue you so desperately desire, you see another wave of problems rushing toward you...
- In this wave, you see what the elements of your destruction certainly are...

Maybe you walked in here today saying:

“This is it, I give up, this is the wave that’s going to kill me!”

But I Came to Tell Someone This morning:

That wave you think is going to kill you is going to save your life!

- ***That which was designed to ELIMINATE you is going to ELIVATE you!***
- ***That which was designed to RUIN you will RESCUE you!***
- ***What you feel is working AGAINST you is working FOR you!***
- ***What was designed to DESTROY you will DELIVER you before it’s over!***
- ***What the enemy meant for EVIL; God is going to use for GOOD!***

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BUT Pastor, You Don’t Know What My Situation Is!

No, I don’t know your situation, but I **DO** know what the Bible says!

It says: Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord.

Weapons will form, but NOT prosper, we are promised spiritual inheritance!

- *This promise serves as a spiritual inheritance,*
 - *Encouraging trust in God's faithfulness,*
 - *Reminding us that our righteousness and ultimate victory is from Him,*
 - **NOT from our own strength!!!**
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2 Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

We must face trials, suffering, and even death w/confidence in God!!!!

- No Guarantee of physical protection in this life! **He's awaiting execution!**
 - Here, Paul faces imminent death in a Roman prison,
 - Yet it concludes with a triumphant doxology of praise to God. Reflecting -
 - Apostle Paul's **unwavering faith and hope** in eternal life w/God.
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A conditional promise where the Lord will elevate Israel to a position of leadership and superiority IF they diligently obey God's commandments.

This chapter is a very large exposition of two words, **the blessings** and **the curse**.

Deuteronomy 28:13 - The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. **If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God** that I give you this day and **carefully follow them**, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.

- The meaning emphasizes that **true prosperity and prominence are blessings for obedience.**
- Contrasting with the **negative consequences** for disobedience.
- **We have a Choice** between **blessings and curses** based on obedience!!!
- You **WILL** become **more powerful, not weaker.**

BUT you MUST obey the commands of the Lord Your God....

God can orchestrate even difficult or painful situations for the ultimate benefit of believers who love Him and are part of His plan.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- It's NOT that God causes bad things to happen...
- But, that He can redeem and use them for good...
- Ultimately shaping us into the likeness of Christ!!!

It does not say or guarantee a life free from suffering and hardship.

It's a promise that God is actively involved in our lives, even in difficult circumstances and He can use the circumstances for our good and His Glory!

- Everything that happens to you is NOT going to be good!
- IN ALL THINGS: good or bad, will work together for your ultimate good!

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BAKING A CAKE Visual Aid - When the Master baker has mixed up everything in your life and puts you in the oven at just the right temperature for just the right amount of time, you'll come out as pure gold!

I know that there are bad things happening to you right now, and yes, the devil has meant them for your destruction, but God has another plan!

From Destruction to Deliverance

He's going to take those bad things and turn them for your good!

- The Devil Meant It for Evil, But God's Going To Use It For Your Good!
- Devil Designed It to Destroy You, God's Going To Use It To Deliver You!
- The Wave That Was Sent to Kill You Is Going to Save Your Life!

I can stand confidently on the Word this morning and tell you:

- You will live and not die
- You will be the head and not the tail
- You will be above and not beneath
- You will be delivered and not destroyed

From Destruction to Deliverance - - -

- What seems to be working against you is working for you!
 - What seems evil to you right now is working for your good!
 - What the enemy meant for evil, God means for good!
 - The thing that looks as though it will destroy you is going to deliver you!
 - It's going to wash some things away that are holding you down!
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Satan Never Seems to Understand That by Bringing Trials to Destroy Us, He Only Gives God Ammunition to Deliver Us!

1. **Jesus went into the wilderness: “Led of the spirit to be tempted of the devil.....”**

Luke 4:1-2 - Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness - 1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

Luke says he went into the wilderness “Full of the Holy Spirit” but came out in “the power of the Holy Spirit!”

Luke 4:14 - Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

The wilderness designed to destroy him gave him power!

2. **Samson was on the road to Timnah and was attacked by a lion.**

Judges 14:5-6 - Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. 6 The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

- The spirit of the Lord empowered him to kill the lion....
- He destroyed it with his bare hands and threw its carcass by the wayside.
- On his way back he was hungry, and saw the carcass, now it had honey in it!

You see, the very animal sent to destroy Samson sustained him!

3. The disciples on the boat

Luke 8:22-25 - Jesus Calms the Storm

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "**Master, Master, we're going to drown!**" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

25 "**Where is your faith?**" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "***Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.***"

- The disciples have lack of trust in Jesus' power and authority,
- Despite being with Him.

True Faith involves believing in Jesus' ability to handle even the most daunting circumstances.

The wind and waves they thought would destroy them were propelling them to their destination!

4. David – in the presence of my enemies!

Psalm 23:5-6 - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

*Even when the enemy is threatening or attacking,
God's protection and provision are still active and evident.*

- This is where God set up a table and sustained David!

If you're in the presence of your enemy today, get ready,

- God's getting ready to feed you!
- Then you're going to take a walk with Him!
- Accompanied by your good friends, goodness and mercy!

What was designed to kill you will sustain you!

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In Our Text This Morning We Find Joseph's Brothers Standing Before Him.

- *Jacob had died, no protector now*
- *Joseph had forgiven them years earlier*
- *But they probably thought, "He just spared us for Dad's sake"*
- *He's been showing us mercy on dad's behalf*
- *Now, Dad's gone, Joseph's going to have us all killed*
- *So, they come to plead their case*

As they asked Joseph once again for mercy, Joseph began to weep and share with them a revelation that God had given him years earlier...

He said, Guys, I've had a lot of time to think about things

- What you did was wrong - You meant it for evil - You meant to destroy me.
- I didn't understand it – BUT - - -

I began to look back on it and I can see that if you wouldn't have done what you did:

- I wouldn't have wound up in slavery
- If not in slavery - I **wouldn't have wound up in Potiphar's house**
- If not in Potiphar's house - I **wouldn't have been falsely accused**
- If not falsely accused – I **Wouldn't have wound up in prison**
- If not in prison – I **Wouldn't have met the king's butler**
- If didn't meet the butler - I **Wouldn't have met the king**
- If not met the king – I **Wouldn't have interpreted his dream**
- If I didn't interpret the dream – *I Wouldn't have warned him of approaching famine*

And if I hadn't done that, I wouldn't be here and neither would you!

What was designed to put me under elevated me!

So, you see, now you can understand why I say:

- *You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good!*
- *It was not you who sent me, but God!*
- *You meant it for destruction, but God used it to preserve life!*

The very thing that was designed to destroy me brought deliverance to us all!

CLOSE:

The very thing that you feel is going to kill you is going to save your life!

Don't give up now!!!!

Before it's over, you're going to find out that God has used this very thing to not only bless you, but to bless an entire church, an entire nation!

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It's a promise that God is actively involved in our lives, even in difficult circumstances and He can use the circumstances for our good and His Glory!