

Detours to Your Destiny:       **“The Promotion of Detours” # 4 Gen. 41:**

The narrative of Joseph places him at 30 years old.

It all started when he was 17 years old.

Gen. 41:46 – says Joseph was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh – King of Egypt.

- Joseph has been on a 13 year Detour!
- Because you don't go from the announcement of your destiny to your destiny in a straight line.

**There are three things to look for that will let you know that you are getting ready to move off of Detour and onto Destiny:       The PLACE God has for you!**

1. You know you are getting ready to leave Detour and enter the highway of Destiny when **God disappoints you just when you thought He was coming through for you!**

- I know you didn't expect that one – you expected a Glory song to start up!
- When God disappoints you JUST when it looked like He was coming through on your behalf!

Gen. 40: 14 –15       “But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house – prison – dungeon. For I was stolen [kidnapped] from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon”

- Joseph's in prison – he has interpreted the dreams of the baker and cup bearer of Pharaoh.
- The cupbearer is restored and Joseph asks him to remember him to Pharaoh and get him out of this prison.
- It looks like God has finally brought someone into Joseph's life that could help him make a contact and get him out of this wrongly placed prison he was in.
- It looks like his day has finally arrived when God has sent a contact who could speak on his behalf!

v. 23- “Yet the cup bearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him!”

- You can know you are heading toward Destiny and off of your Detour when it looks like God has set things up to deliver you; but then it goes left on you!
- When it goes left on you – it's good news in a bad situation!

**That raises a Question in our minds:**

God, why did You want to set me up, but then break my heart?

Why did you make it “Look Like You're getting ready to deliver me & Not deliver me?”

Why did You want to look like You were going to work it out – but then not work it out?

This is when we get disappointed with God!

- Anybody here had this happen?

This feels bad; but it's actually GOOD! Why?

1. When God takes you to your destiny – He doesn't want to share the credit or glory with you or anyone else who might have "helped you get there."
  - He won't share the credit with: people you know, the contacts you have, the money you used, the notoriety you have, the power or background you have.
  - So He wouldn't let Joseph's contact with the cupbearer be the means of his deliverance so that the cupbearer or Joseph couldn't take the credit.
  - So God let Joseph get to the edge thinking he had a hook-up and then backed him up just to let him know it wasn't going to be through the human method he thought!
2. God's plan for Joseph was so important and strategic that God had to build into Joseph the understanding and trust that God put him in this place; not man's contriving.
  - Joseph's placement would not be because he knew somebody and they were doing him a favor to repay a debt.
  - God was proving to Joseph that this thing was about Him and God was leaving Joseph's hook – up out of it!
  - God is working the same thing in you to prove to you it's Him and His will and purposes for your life – not you abilities and who you know to get you to the top.
  - So "Cupbearer" isn't going to even remember your name – even though you did him a favor.

**Some have not gotten off of their Detour because they are still too self-sufficient and dependent on their own abilities or their trust in what man can do!**

- We can handle it ourselves – we know the right people – we have the right money – we work the right job – we got the right hook-up – we're pulling the right strings –
- We think because we have the right human ability and talent – contacts – human resources – **THEN WE THROW IN A LITTLE PRAYER TO MAKE IT SEEM SPIRITUAL!**

**There is a time when God will put more on you than you can bear-**

- Its' when He is breaking you down of your independence.

It is when God disappoints you just when it looks like He is coming through for you that you in order to increase your dependency upon Him and not on you.

But this is Good news! When you are thrown on God alone – He gets the chance to be God and show everyone how Great He is.

2. Is related to number 1- **It's When God Skips You-**

- First – He's disappointed you.
- Next – He skips you altogether.

Everybody else gets picked, promoted, a raise, a commendation; - but not YOU?

Gen. 41:1-7

“Then it came to pass, at the end of **two FULL years**, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.

These two years made Joseph 30 years old – a **13 year detour!**

- Joseph is waiting after the cupbearer is released for a knock to come to his door announcing his innocence and his release – but it doesn't come for two full years.

Pharaoh's dream:

- Seven healthy cows were devoured by seven sickly cows.
- Seven good/full heads of grain were devoured by seven blighted heads of grain.

Same dream in two phases!

- Joseph has never met Pharaoh, so has no connection with Pharaoh's dreams.
- Pharaoh can't figure the dream out, neither can his magicians and all the wise men of Egypt [the professionals of the culture] – when suddenly; the cupbearer who is always standing at Pharaoh's side REMEMBERS-
  - Dream – interpretation - dream – interpretation and remembers Joseph interpreted his dream and it came to pass.
- Pharaoh's dream is going to be the link for Joseph getting to meet Pharaoh.
- God was working in Pharaoh's mansion to bring Joseph and him together to fulfill Joseph's destiny.
- God is working on both ends of the situation to bring His will for people to come to pass.

Vv. 8-13 Pharaoh's wise men and magicians fail to interpret his dream.  
Cupbearer remembers Joseph interpreted his dream while in prison.

**When God is setting something up – He will not let human wisdom come up with an answer!**

Even the most brilliant people and gifted people may not be able to explain your situation or help you because God is up to something in your life to bring you to your destiny by His power.

**One of the reasons we stay on a detour we should be off by now is that we keep introducing human wisdom for the answer and provision!**

- Once you introduce human wisdom [man's way that contradicts Gods' way], you cut off God's way!

Joseph is sitting in his jail thinking of the dream interpretation of the cupbearer that it will bring the answer for him – God skips him.

This brings Joseph to the third phase of promotion:

3. You know God is moving you out of the detour to Promotion when –

**God surprises you!**

**41:12-14** “Now there was a young Hebrew man with us in prison [when Pharaoh was angry with us] a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream. And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him [baker]. And Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and then brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, and changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.”

- For some folk – that's luck – chance or fate.
- But that should not be in your vocabulary.
- It's called **Providence** – the hand of God moving in the glove of history creating a dream, reminding the cupbearer about his relationship with Joseph years ago that makes the connection that now Pharaoh wants to meet a man named Joseph whom he never knew.
- God brings back remembrance to the cupbearer when it's **TIME!**
- Unless you believe that God is a God of time – and He is orchestrating circumstances.

V. 15- Now Pharaoh calls Joseph and says: “I've had a dream and the cupbearer says you can help me – can you help me?”

“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it.”

- All of Joseph's gifting from his youth are now coming into prominence to fulfill his destiny.

V. 16- “So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying – “it is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

Although Joseph has been 13 years on a Detour; he has never forgotten that God is his Source:

- **Joseph interprets the dream:** the seven fat cows are seven good years of plenty – the seven ugly cows are seven years of famine that will devour the good years. The seven good stalks of grain are seven years of plenty – the seven blighted stalks are seven years of famine that will devour the good years.
- After years of being forgotten – now God surprises Joseph.
- He felt after two years that nobody is coming to knock on my door.
- I’m forgotten.

**Some of you here today may have given up because your Detour has been too long-**

- Do a Bible study on the word – “**Suddenly**” God’s Suddenly’s!
- When God comes out of nowhere and surprises you with His answer in His timing!
- But if you are doing your own thing – operating on human wisdom you will miss God’s suddenly’s!
- Out of NOWHERE – Joseph gets a knock on his prison door and the call is to leave your ‘Prison Cell’ because the Pharaoh needs to see you.

**For You Today:**            **The challenge is for you – if you are on a Detour:**

- Get in God’s will and surrender to that for your life.
- Stop letting human opinion keep you on the Detour – following the ways of man that contradict the ways of God.
- No one knows how long your Detour will be, but you can be assured God knows where your Destiny is located – and when the right God hook-up is supposed to occur.

Illus:            There was a man was very frustrated – angry and disappointed with God and the slowness towards a breakthrough in his life.

He was at the point of giving up and went to the woods to have a final conversation with God and let him know how frustrated and tired he was.

As he cried out to God saying: God I’m giving up, I haven’t heard or seen anything and I’m giving up unless You say or do something now -

Heaven opened and God answered the man:

“Look around you and tell Me what you see.”

The man looked around and said: “All I can see from where I am are ferns and

some bamboo!

God said: “Exactly, let Me tell you about the fern and the bamboo.

When the fern seeds were planted, they grew up very quickly and they are lush and green.

But – let Me tell you about the bamboo.

When it was planted – the first year you saw nothing, the second year you saw nothing, the third year you saw, the fourth and fifth you saw nothing.

BUT – the sixth year the first shoot of the bamboo came up!

God asked – “How tall is that bamboo you’re looking at?”

Man replied – “It’s over 100 feet tall!”

God told him: “The reason why the bamboo is over 100 ft. tall is because the five years you saw nothing it was growing deep roots because it was going to have to have a deep foundation to fulfill the purpose for which I created it.

The fern isn’t growing as high, so it could come up real quick,  
But because of where I was taking the bamboo; I had to allow things to go deep inside before I could show what it would look like outside.

**If God is taking a long time with you – it’s because He is taking you deep on the inside because of where He plans to take you on the outside.**

**A lot of believers want a sky scraper destiny on a chicken coop foundation!**

**We want God to take us way up high, but won’t let Him take us deep in our character.**

**If you want God to take you high – you have to let God take you deep- because the deeper He takes you, the higher He can take you without you falling over when the bad times come!**