

BEHIND THE SCENES

(How God Is Sovereign And Overrules The Plans of Man)

Psalm 105:16-22



Remember His Marvelous Works

- ◆ God Knows Where You Are
- ◆ God Knows How To Open Doors
- ◆ God Knows What You Can Handle

“God sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant.” (v. 17)

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“Behind The Scenes”

Text: Psalm 105: 16-22

Subject: How God Works Providentially In Your Life

Introduction

1. Psalm 105 is an account of God’s faithfulness!
2. It teaches us to praise God for His wonderful providence in our lives!
3. The psalm covers three main areas:
 - ◆ There is a call to praise and give thanks (v. 1-7)
 - ◆ There is God’s dealing with Abraham (v. 8-23)
 - ◆ There is Israel’s protection in the wilderness (v. 24-45)

Question: What is God saying in all of this?

Answer: That from the call of God to Abraham – all the way to the possession of the Promised Land – God is always faithful!

Fact: Psalm 105 talks about Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joseph, Aaron, the plagues and the promises of God.

- ◆ In v. 9 – God made a covenant
- ◆ In v. 11 – God promised the land of Canaan
- ◆ In v. 16 – God caused a famine for His purposes
- ◆ In v. 27 – God did signs and wonders
- ◆ In v. 39 – God used a fire and a cloud to give direction
- ◆ In v. 44 – God gave the land He had promised

Notice Two Things

1. The psalm begins with *“O give thanks unto the Lord.”*
2. The psalm ends with *“Praise ye the Lord.”*

Question: What is it that produces a heart full of gratitude and praise?

Answer: Verse 5 tells us it’s our memory:

“Remember God’s marvelous works that He has done.” (v. 5)

In Other Words

- ◆ If you constantly dwell on your past pain – you will poison your present (But...)
- ◆ If you constantly dwell on God’s marvelous works He has done – you will increase your joy and gladness beyond measure!

(v. 43) ***“God brought forth His people with joy and gladness.”***

(The Question Is)

◆ What is it that God wants us to remember? (That produces great joy and rest)

(v. 17 Makes It Clear)

“He (God) sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant. Whose feet they hurt with fetters, until the time of the Lord.”

Question: Who was behind it all in Joseph’s life? (And behind it all in your life?)

Answer: (v. 17) ***“It was God who sent a man before them, even Joseph.”***

In Other Words

1. **It was God** who called for the famine in the land of Canaan. (v. 16)
2. **It was God** who directed Joseph to be sold as a slave. (v. 17)
3. **It was God** who allowed Joseph to be tried in the “fetters and iron collar.” (v. 18)
4. **It was God** who used Joseph’s pain to *“Bring His people safely out of Egypt.”* (v. 37)

What About You?

1. Maybe you (like Joseph) are in an environment that has **less than ideal** circumstances.
2. Maybe you (like Joseph) have had your plans put **“on hold”** or **“detoured”** in your schedule.
3. Maybe you (like Joseph) have experienced **pain** or **disappointment** in the will of God.
4. Maybe you (like Joseph) are learning to **wait upon the Lord** for answers to prayer.
5. Maybe you (like Joseph) will be used to **rescue many people down the road.**

Question: What is it about Joseph, that God wants you to remember – that removes all anxiety and produces great joy? (Even in our financial crisis, housing crisis, unemployment crisis, energy crisis, debt crisis, automaker crisis and spiritual crisis?)

Some “Wisdom Discoveries” To Remember:

1. **Remember that - God knows ahead of time what you don’t need to know!** (Repeat)

(v. 17) *“Then God sent someone to Egypt ahead of them, Joseph who was sold as a slave.”*

Question: How did God get Joseph where he needed to be?

Answer: God used the wrath of man to praise His name one more time:

- ◆ Joseph was sold by his own flesh and blood.
- ◆ Joseph was lied about by his own boss’s wife.
- ◆ Joseph was forgotten for two years in prison.
- ◆ Joseph was put “on hold” for 13 years.

(All after Joseph had a dream of how God was going to use him.)

Question: Did God tell Joseph that it was all in the plan? **Answer:** Of course not!

Question: Did Joseph have a crystal ball to foresee the future? **Answer:** Of course not!

Question: What's the lesson in all of this?

Answer: That **God knows ahead of time what you don't need to know.**

- ◆ God afflicted the land of Canaan with famine and prepared a remedy for Jacob by sending Joseph before hand to provide the food to sustain Israel!

2. Remember that – God knows what you can handle so you never need to be afraid!

(Repeat)

(v. 18) *"There in prison they bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar."*

Question: What happens to Joseph?

Answer: He is carried away to prison (and God seems to be asleep in heaven).

Question: Was it an easy time for Joseph?

Answer: He was bound and chained after being betrayed and forgotten!

Question: Did Joseph crack up in prison?

Answer: No (in fact) he served those in prison with him!

Question: How did Joseph survive and not get sour and angry against God?

Answer: Because he discovered what God wants you to know (which is)

- ◆ That God knows what you can handle, so you never need to be afraid.

3. Remember that – God knows how long you need to be where you are!

(v. 19) *"Until the time came to fulfill His word"*

- ◆ God seems to be tardy in His steps!
- ◆ God seems to take a long time to work it all out.
- ◆ God seems to have lost the whereabouts of Joseph.

Question: What is happening to Joseph?

Answer: His patience is being tried and perfected!

Question: Is it easy when you feel like you're "on hold"?

Answer: Of course not!

Question: Is it beneficial?

Answer: It is when you respond with humility and get more grace!

Question: What's the good news in all of this?

Answer: (v. 19) That God is in control of time and God knows how to fulfill His word in you.

4. Remember that – God knows that what's going on in you inwardly is more important than what is going on to you outwardly!

(v. 19 b) *"The Lord tested Joseph's character."*

◆ In other words – what happens "**in you**" is more important than what happens "**to you**"!

Question: Why did the Lord test Joseph's character?

Answer: Because God had something for Joseph to do.

Question: Why does God test your character?

Answer: Because God has something for you to do! (In Other Words)

◆ **What you may think is painful and tough and difficult – in reality is making you into a vessel of honor for God's glory!!!**

Fact: If you help a locust out of its shell – you'll kill it!

Fact: If you help a caterpillar out of its cocoon – you'll kill it!

Fact: If you help a chicken out of its egg shell – you'll kill it!

◆ **They have to go through something – to become something they were not!!**

5. Remember that – God knows how to unlock the doors that no one else can open!

(I love this) (v. 20) *"Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free; the ruler of the nation opened his prison door."*

Question: What did God do?

Answer: He motivates a powerful monarch to bring a stranger out of prison – to make him the ruler over his entire kingdom.

In Other Words

◆ God opens the door that Joseph could never open!

Question: What is the psalmist saying in all of this?

1. That God is in control when you think man is in control!
2. That God can open doors that no one else can open!
3. That God (when you least expect it) may surprise you with His infinite wisdom!
4. That God is at work in the normal routine events of your life!
5. That God knows where you are when nobody else knows where you are!

6. Remember that – God knows the wisdom you receive in your hard times will bear

fruit down the road in your ministry to others!

(v. 22) *"Then Joseph began to instruct the senators in wisdom and teach the king's advisors."*

Question: What did God do for Joseph during his 13 years "on hold"?

Answer: God gave him wisdom beyond his own capacity!

Question: Why did God do this in the hard times?

Answer: So that Joseph could pass it on in the good times!

Question: What's the lesson of v.22?

Answer: That nothing is wasted if you remember this one truth:

◆ Victims look at what they are **going through**, champions look at what they are **going to!** (Repeat)

Conclusion

◆ Why is it easy to "give thanks to the Lord"?

(Because God is Sovereign, Alpha and Omega)

1. He knows ahead of time what you don't need to know!
2. He knows what you can handle, so you never need to be afraid.
3. He knows how long you need to be where you are!
4. He knows what's going on inwardly is more important than what is going on outwardly!
5. He knows how to unlock the doors that no one else can open!
6. He knows that the wisdom you obtain in the hard times, will bless a multitude of people down the road!!

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