Devotion #289

**Called for a Purpose**

**Genesis 45:7 (NASB)** *"God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.”*

This morning I woke up reminiscing about my early childhood. I think what triggered those thoughts was the beautiful spring morning and the freshness that it brings. As a young boy, at this time of year, I would often get lost in my mind thinking about summer vacation. So as the warmer weather came, I would find myself thinking about the last week of school, when all we had to do was play field games and have fun. Then summer! It was an awesome time of life. My summers were very blessed. I spent the days riding my bike and playing and being on the river fishing and all sorts of other things. So I have fond memories of those days.

What I didn’t know then was that God was preparing me for a different life, a life of following Him. It took many years to figure that out, and it certainly didn’t begin to make sense until after I was born again – until after I had asked Him to forgive me of my sins and surrendered my heart to Him. (John 3:5-7) And even then it took a while to understand why God saved me.

The truth is, God had a plan for my life all along. Everything I did was a preamble to what life is now and what it will be in the future. It’s the same way for everyone who belongs to Him. Joseph was a man who understood that. Born to a family of brothers who hated him and wanted him dead - selling him to slave traders and he having to live the rest of his life away from the one person who loved him, his father. Thrown in jail for something he didn’t do. Yet, still, Joseph understood that God was in control of his life all the way. That’s why he would say to his brothers, many years later, “God sent me before you to preserve you.”

I can’t say that God has or is doing exactly in us what He was doing in Joseph, but I can say that God has a plan for our lives. Contrary to what many people think, He didn’t create us and just turn us loose. He is working His plan every day through every circumstance with one goal, to lead others to Himself. Also contrary to our thinking, this life is about doing and being what God wants for us to do and be and not so much about what we want. Simply put, you are where you are in life because God has put you there to be a witness for Him. Think of it this way, when you took your job or bought your house or started attending the school you’re attending, God was putting you there to be his witness. To make that happen He needed to give you the job, the circumstances, the school, the life partner to make that happen.

Your life is not as much about you as it is about God. You may have been looking for a long time at your life and planning your future and all the rest so that you can be who you want to be and have what you want to have, but the truth is, God is just using all the things and people in your life to give you what you need to survive so you can be His witness in that place. Kind of like God is saying, “I am going to give so and so that job, not so he can think life is all about that, but because he will need to have the means to live while being My witness.”

That was Joseph’s understanding. He knew that he was not just a Hebrew who had a lot of luck or good fortune. He understood that his whole life was centered on God’s will for Him and not what he wanted. If he had believed otherwise, he would have fussed and fumed like we often do when things didn’t go our way. But he didn’t. He didn’t because he knew he was first a servant of God, then everything else.

So where are you right now? Have you been working to be the best employee or the best teacher or student because you are formulating the life you want? Or are you doing what you do so that you can be a witness wherever you are? Don’t forget beloved, you were called for a purpose. That purpose was not to be comfortable and secure in this life, but to be a witness for God no matter where you are. What could be more fulfilling than that? To know that your life is so valuable to God that He put you exactly in the place He wanted you and gave you all the tools to be His witness. There are eternal souls who need what you have. Make sure you work His plan and not yours.