Recalculating — How to Navigate through Life’s Detours

Detour: The Surprising Destination

Nov 21, 2021

Genesis: 50:15-21

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 [I beg you] to forgive your brothers the sins [trespass] and the wrongs [the evil] 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. 21 So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Theme & Goal:

When you are on a detour, **T**  your **N** .

Reason #1: Jesus is in **C** .

Genesis 50:19

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?

Are you in control or the Lord Jesus?

בָּכָה bakah

to weep, bewail, mourn, sob, weep bitterly

Reason #2: Jesus can bring good out of your **B** .

Genesis 50:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good

Genesis 45:4-8

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

Romans 8:28

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.

Works together...

Synergism

Synergism comes from the Greek word "synergos" meaning working together. It refers to the interaction between two or more "things" when the combined effect is greater than if you added the "things" on their own (a type of "when is one plus one is greater than two" effect).

Reason #3: Jesus uses your detour to **H**  others.

Genesis 50:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Romans 8:31-39

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord’s Day 10

Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

1. God’s providence is

his almighty and ever present power,

whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds

heaven and earth and all creatures,

and so governs them that

leaf and blade,

rain and drought,

fruitful and barren years,

food and drink,

health and sickness,

riches and poverty,

come to us not by chance

but by his fatherly hand.

Q. How does the providence of God help us?

1. We can be patient in adversity,

thankful in prosperity,

and with a view to the future

we can have a firm confidence

in our faithful God and Father

that nothing shall separate us

from his love;

For all creation is so completely in his hand

that without his will

it can neither move or be moved.

Sometimes, you just don’t know the good while you are on a detour...

Jesus Christ is the ultimate and better Joseph!

**APPLICATION**

SEEKER — You are not here by chance! Trust Jesus Christ as your Divine Navigator!

houseChurch -- Work out Jesus’ navigation with others!

Share your detour adventure with someone this week.