

The Danger of Delay

Psalm 105:17-19 - ¹⁷ He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. ¹⁸ They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. ¹⁹ Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested him.

We are people of promise!

- As a New Testament believer, we are not seeking a promised land, we are seeking a land of promises.
- Promise is the only thing that gives you reason to live.
- When expectation dies backsliding and spiritual death begins.
- Expectation is the breeding ground of miracles!
- The most debilitating condition of human existence is not drugs, depression, divorces, or immorality – **IT IS UNBELIEF!**

2 Peter 1:3-4 - ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

- Nothing blesses the heart of God more than faith.

John 3:17-18 - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved...**because they refused to believe.**

2 Corinthians 1:20 - ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* **Yes**, and in Him **Amen...**

- Can you have the promise of God – **God says YES, but you have to say AMEN.**
- Amen is faith in agreement.

Promises create expectation:

- We are people of promise.
- He is a God of promise.

I was created in the image and likeness of God. What does that mean:

- I am a spirit.
- I have sovereignty – which means choice gives me the right not to be made to do anything.
- You can't force people do anything.
- **You can be coerced to be complaint, but you can't be forced to submit.**
 - You can be standing in line but sitting down in your mind.

GOD MADE US SOVEREIGN BECAUSE HE DESIRES FOR US

TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR OWN DELIVERANCE!

He will do what's necessary to break what's holding you, but you must do what's necessary to walk out.

- Expectation is the factor that pushes me to walk past my mess into my promise.

Expectation has a danger zone: Delay

- Abraham blew it in the danger zone – Hagar and Ishmael.
- Noah built a boat – planted a vineyard and got drunk and laid in the street naked.
- David was a peeping-tom.
- Peter walked on water, then cut a man and cursed a girl. But he had a promise that pushed him to be the preacher of Pentecost.

The distance between expectation and reality is the arena of disappointment.

Let me go back to our text...

Psalm 105:17-19 - ¹⁷ **He sent a man before them**—Joseph—**who was sold as a slave.** ¹⁸ They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. ¹⁹ Until the time that his word came to pass, **The word of the Lord tested him.**

1. God sent a man before them...

- Joseph's experience was by design
- It was after a dream
- **You can't survive the design without a dream!**
- Usually, it is the people that are closest to you that criticizes your dream. Understand the only reason they criticize your dream is because they don't have one.
 - Judah had a promise – scepter will be in his hands from you will come a kingly redeemer. But he couldn't see it.
 - Dan had a promise – from his line would come a tribe of judges. But he couldn't see Gideon or Samson in his seed.
 - Ruben - He did not know that 4000 years later they would name the sandwich after him and everybody would be eating it.

You must have a promise over your life that does not make sense!

2. Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested him...

- "Tested" = refine
- God did not test him to see if he was qualified for the promise. God already qualified him. We can't qualify for the promises, they can only be received.

- He tested me to get me in the proper condition and into the proper alignment to receive the dream that was destined for my life.

Conclusion:

Peter hit the danger zone – Satan has desired to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith fail not.

- You blew it, keep pushing.
- You let your anger get the best of you. Keep pushing.
- You even denied me – keep pressing.

The battle of your life is not about your stuff, it is about your FAITH!

Don't let the delay deter you from your design!

- The opposite of faith is not fear. The opposite of faith is not unbelief. The opposite of faith is *sight*.
 - We walk by faith not by sight.
 - What you see vs. what you believe.

Two things he refines:

- **MOTIVATION** – the WHY of your life
 - The people that know why always lead the people that know what.
 - Joseph saw himself as a world leader, but God had to refine his why.
 - Moses spent 40 years in the desert to deal with his orphan spirit. Moses, you need to understand the reason I'm using you to bring them out is not about you but a promise that I made to Abraham 400 years ago.
- **ASSOCIATION** – the WHO of your life
 - I've got a plan for you, but your brothers can't go.
 - Anyone who can leave your life was not for your life.
 - If you keep hanging out with Bubba and BooBoo - BooBoo is dumb as a pile of rock and Bubba is crooked as a snake – you will be like them.
 - Let it go...let it go...

Napoleon – The only reason to go to war is to win!

Vince Lombardy – Winning and losing are both habits!

If you base your expectation upon your experience, you will never apprehend your promise!