

Sermon ~ Sunday, October 30, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Genesis 39: 1-6

Title: "Successful DESPITE Slavery"

Who does not want to be successful, adj. prosperous, ahead of the game, fortunate...
Who volunteers for slavery, verb, expressing the condition in which one is owned by another.
Yet life teaches that there are some "choices" we don't make... yet, DESPITE, transitive verb, meaning, to be treated with *contempt*; to be *provoke* to anger...
Or, DESPITE, can be used as a *noun*, expressing in spite of... regardless of, against, although, even though, even with...

Riding with the radio on, 990 AM, this song by Angela Spivey came on entitled "These Thorns."

There are thorns in my flesh, I can't seem to overcome.
And these thorns in my flesh just keep on hindering me.
LORD, I really want to be everything **YOU** want me to be,
so, I'm begging **YOU, LORD**, please remove these thorns.

LORD, I took, I took **YOUR WORDS**, and I hid them, I hid them in my heart.
So, I could live as **YOU** commanded, and the world won't tear it apart.
YOU said every promise **YOU** would keep, if I would lay all of my sins,
if I would lay all of them at **YOUR FEET**.
So, I'm begging **YOU LORD**, please remove these thorns.

Chorus,

Take them away (so I can live Holy) Take them away (so I can live right)
These sins that are blocking my blessings, that nobody knows but **YOU** and me,
Oooh **LORD**, please remove these thorns.

I asked myself, but what *if*, **GOD** choose not too? Is there a DESPITE in my life?

Joseph in the text, *came to Egypt... from* a 'favorite' of his father Jacob *to* 'hated' by his 11 brothers... *from wearing* a 'coat of many colors' *to* 'back-naked in an empty pit without water' ... *from* the position of 'dreaming son' in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan *to* being 'sold by his own brothers' to a band of Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they sold him in Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

What do you see? *Now* I see...

V. 1, **The Unseen Hand of GOD**, *working on the 'inside' for my good*. Potiphar, the warden, the officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought Joseph...

What do you see? *Now* I see...

V. 4, **The GRACE of GOD**, *granting me godly wisdom, understanding and knowledge*.

"And Joseph found **grace**... and **grace** caused his to *serve*... and **grace** and *service* made Joseph overseer of Potiphar's house, and all that he had put into Joseph's hand.

What do you see? *Now I see...*

V. 2, GOD seeing after my well-being... “**The LORD** was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man...” Where? “In the house of his master the Egyptian.” [In master’s house, Joseph **CHRISTian light** kept shining... his **CHRISTian salt**, he shook... his **CHRISTianity** could not be hid!]

What do you see? *Now I see...*

V. 3, the importance of being a purposeful witness vs. a pouting worker. “And the master saw that **The LORD** was with Joseph, and **The LORD** made all that he did to prosper in his hand.” [When they go low, we go high—integrity!]

What do you see? *Now I see...*

V. 5, no matter where I work, my worth is made known by my **Worship of GOD.** “Through my years of toiling, from the time **GOD** made me overseer, and over all that he had, **The LORD** blessed the Egyptians house for *my* (Joseph’s) sake; and the blessing of **The LORD** was upon all that Potiphar had in the house, and in the field.” [Shout with me, ‘this old world cannot do without the *godly!*]

What do you see? *Now I see...*

Our **GOD** is a **PROVIDENTIAL GOD!** Can we stack the odds in our *favor?*

“And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good, if we love **GOD** and are fitting into **HIS** purpose.” (Romans 8: 28—NLT)

What do you see? *Now I see...*

Two qualifiers...

1. WE love **GOD** and trust **HIM** to work for **HIS** good.
2. We except **HIS** call and purpose.

In fact, those who love **GOD** are *called and purposely positioned* by **GOD!** (Vise-versa)

“I Started... Walking with **JESUS** and I’m Going Through!”

I Started... Walking with **JESUS** and I’m Going Through!

I’m going through, I’m going through.

I’ll pay the price; whatever others may do.

I’ll take the way, with **The LORD’S** despised few,

I Started... Walking with **JESUS** and I’m Going Through!

I started out to walk in **The LIGHT**, shining upon me from Heaven so bright.

I bade this world and its follies adieu,

I have started in **JESUS** and I’m going through.

I’d rather walk with **JESUS** alone and have my pillow like Jacob a stone.

Living each moment with **HIS FACE** in my view.

I have started with **JESUS** and I’m going through.

I’m going through, Yes, I’m going through.

I’ll pay the price whatever others do.

I’ll take this way with my **LORD’S** despised few.

I’ve started in **JESUS** and I’m going through.