

January 23, 2019 - Ricky Lindsey
Joseph



George Bailey in “It’s A Wonderful Life” wished he had never been born. As a result, he was given a glimpse of a world that did not include him. He discovered what so many of us long to know – why we go through the joy, the pain, the highs and the lows. Romans 8:28 states that “for those who love God all things work together for good...” Not that everything is good, but that all things work out according to His plan.

For a recent Bible Study lesson I was preparing, I studied the life of Joseph. His journey started out on a smooth path. He was the favored son of Jacob who had dreamed that his family would bow to him one day. He probably never imagined the path that would take him to that point. Joseph was sold into slavery in an unfamiliar land, falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife, and later forgotten about in prison. When he went before Pharaoh, God gave Joseph the interpretation to a dream and this resulted in him being promoted to the second highest position in the land, second only to Pharaoh. The Pharaoh’s dream became reality involving seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph’s destination was preceded literally by being thrown in a pit, but ended with God’s plan of saving countless lives, including his own family, from starvation. Joseph’s situation kept the Hebrew people and the lineage of Christ intact.

We have the benefit of looking at Joseph’s entire story. Can you imagine being in the middle of it? We cannot see where God is taking us, but we know that the God who created the universe has a plan. When Esther was concerned about going to the King to save the Jews, Mordecai replied, “And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” There was genuine concern because of a real threat of death, but Esther went, and her people were spared. Perhaps you were born for such a time as this. What is God calling you to do that might be difficult?

In Jeremiah 12:5, God answers Jeremiah, “If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?” In other words, how are we to stand firm in the Gospel during trials if we have never experienced adversity? How is God preparing you for the future? What are you going through right now that will further the kingdom?

Be encouraged that even though trials may come and bring pain, our final destination was secured by the One who has “overcome the world.” Take your life experiences and the story of how you came to know Christ to those around you, for you never know what part you are playing in God’s plan.