

# **It Matters that You Know It All Matters**

**It ALL Matters...**

**Does It Really Matter?**

**Yes, when God sends you... it all matters.**

**Jeremiah, Joseph, and Paul all were SENT — by God — into conditions and circumstances that they would not have chosen themselves. YET — they grasped the goodness and glory of God while in and through the challenges that reflected the goodness and glory of God as they walked or sailed through it.**

**What matters? Everything... and if everything matters:**

- How you get there matters!**

**(The MEANS is God... and the means, how He got you to where you are, matters. If all we ever do is complain and blame everyone else we'll miss out on the means, we'll lose focus on our mission and we'll never minister**

and bless anyone. Joseph recognized it was God who sent him, not his brothers. They were part of the means of how He sent him. The slave traders, Potiphar, his wife, the prison, and the dreams were all part of the means.)

- Why you there matters!

(The MISSION is always about life... and life matters. Joseph was sent, by God, before His people, to preserve life for them and their future descendants. Why he was sent matters. Psalm 105:16-23.)

- What you do, why you're there, matters!

(The MINISTRY matters. The ministry of serving others matters so we can ultimately fulfill the MISSION.) To fulfill the mission of bringing life to a lifeless and drought-stricken world... we have to serve those we share life with: those in our homes, communities, churches, on our jobs, and in the marketplace. We are told that Abraham and his descendants [after him] would be a blessing wherever God SENT them. Their service to others provided the platform needed to be in a position to fulfill their mission. The only time they

were not a blessing to others is when they operated out of fear and not by faith. Joseph was recognized as a man that had the presence and favor of God upon His life... as a result, he blessed everyone he served.)

Being imbalanced...

Balance is ever so critical... not in everything but in some things it makes ALL THE DIFFERENCE. And what we do, when God sends us, in our ministries MUST BE BALANCED.

IMBALANCES come when we KNOW more than we TRUST. IMBALANCE sets in when DISPUTE more than we OBEY.

IMBALANCES become our new normal when we DISLIKE more often than LOVE (when we're against more than we're for).

Grudges are an indication of an IMBALANCE.

Grudges gouge and chip at the integrity of our character.

**God called for a famine and that famine would be the means He would use to call His people into a foreign land, as He had faithfully promised Abraham and providentially sent Joseph into Egypt. Now, God's good news has come to Israel and we find him pointing his family toward God's only solution and purpose.**

**God lovingly, sovereignly, and providentially commanded, called, and planned a unique and far-reaching tragedy to meet a specific need. God made it impossible for them to stay where they were. He was moving them to the place where they were willing to seek help from someone, in an unfamiliar place, for life solutions that they couldn't fix or solve on their own.**

**This is not an uncommon move of God. There's a great reason God gives us the personal witness and work of Joseph in Genesis. Joseph is such a faithful servant to examine and explore. There's much about his life and journey that mirrors and foreshadows the life of Jesus. His living testimony can be a great tool to help establish and reinforce your trust and testimony in the**

grace of the Lord Jesus.

Think about it. We often find ourselves in the same place in life as Jacob and his people. And we like them to do what is natural, we turn to one another to meet needs we cannot meet. Why do we turn to people when tragedy or famine or hardships come our way? Why do we turn only to those, in the same boat we're in, who can't help us? They need help, too, and the solution is not among us. Why are we seeking answers about life among the dead? I encourage you to heed the advice of Jacob when you find yourself searching for life. Quit looking at one another and look to Jesus.

In Jacob's day, God had sent a man ahead of His people to meet their needs during a drought. In our day, God has already sent Jesus, ahead of His brethren, to declare His heart, forgive us for how we wronged Him, and meet our most desperate needs. May we run to Jesus.

I penned a poem with these principles in mind

surrounding Joseph, and Jacob and how they foreshadow Jesus and us.

Why Do You Look TO One Another?

•

We dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

•

Words we sing with a lifted voice and hand,  
Until despair and drought confront our stand.

•

We shift our grace and gaze upon our brother,  
When troubles move in to cover and smother.

•

Looking to our neighbor for his thought,  
Pushing at the truth we've sung and taught.

•

Turning blame to shame for our daily loss,  
Seeking new answers from useless dross.

•

Why do we seek answers from a man,  
When droughts and famines take their stand?

•  
We are convinced that man can do,  
Seeking to hear, just wishing anyone knew.

•  
Just another lie we miss and trust.  
Looking for hope becomes our lust.

•  
When a spiritual famine comes near,  
Retune your heart with a humble ear.

•  
God will meet our desperate need,  
His purpose, plan, and priorities heed.

•  
He's sent a Man ahead of each of you,  
Run and bow before Him, He's ever true.

•  
Though you've rejected Him in the past,  
He has more than bread that will forever last.

•  
Stop looking to those who cannot provide,  
Run to Jesus, His arms are now open wide.

•

Dare we not trust even the sweetest frame,  
But may we wholly lean on Jesus' name.

•

Nick Holden

I want to share a little insight into the phrase "forget not" found in Psalm 103.

In the context of the Psalm, it speaks of "forgetting not" all the benefits God has graciously bestowed upon the redeemed. The word forgets as the Lord uses it in that passage, meaning "to mislay." For example, when we "mislay" our keys or anything in our own home. We know they are in the house... somewhere, but we can't currently find them because we "mislaidd" them. How did we misplace them? For some reason, we did not put them in their "normal spot" or "proper place" when we came home. How did this happen? It could happen by neglect but it usually happens when we get distracted. When we get distracted by a phone call or a child or hurrying to the bathroom or because our hands were full when we walked in the house and we placed the keys in an unusual place. The problem



with this is we usually "forget" where we "mislaide" them the next time we need the keys.

Well, the same idea applies to when we let our circumstances "distract" us, and we "mislay" all the great things the Lord has done for us. We misplace and "forget" that **RIGHT NOW**, despite the things that are making an all-out effort to distract us, is the only time we have to bless the Lord. And before we know it... we find ourselves down on life, defeated, and discouraged.

Distractions always cause some sort of disconnect from what we're doing. And in some cases that can be a good thing. But when we apply it to the benefits of grace and God's goodness, it's **NEVER** a thing worth celebrating.

And the disconnect started when something pulled our attention and focus off of Jesus, and like our keys, we misplace His redeeming grace to answer a "distracting call from a frazzling telemarketer." Don't let the empty calls or circumstances of life cause you

to miss what He's done and doing in your life. May He help each of us keep our gaze upon Him...by reminding us to preach to ourselves, as He did with David, when he said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits!"

**#nestingwithjesus #genesis #genesis37 #genesis45  
Genesis50 #genesis41 #psalm105 #psalm103  
#psalm104 #recaps #timing #favor #Godstiming  
#Godfavor #joseph  
#trustingHimalsomeanstrustingHistiming  
#nothingswaisted #everystroke #everycolor  
#Hedoesnothingaccidentally #carriedofftoegypt  
#itallmatters #everythoughtcaptive #guardyourheart  
#circumstances #conditions  
#howyougettherematters #whyouthere matters  
#backsliding #health #eating #sowingtotheflesh  
#fretting**