

From Diapers To Destiny

Going from favor to glory

Points To Ponder:

1. God highly favors your life.
2. God's thoughts towards you are far above your own thoughts
3. God's Fatherhood is His favor towards you.
4. Favor doesn't exclude you from being faithful.
5. Never let bitter experiences take you out of the game and cause you to give up on your destiny.

READ I Corinthians 4:14-15

- Paul deemed himself to be a "Spiritual father".
- The heart of a father is to lead you to your destiny.
- The heart of a father is to desire the greatest things for you life.
- The heart of a father lays down his own life for the betterment of his children.

How would you sum up your earthly father's input in your life?

How has your earthly father's life impacted your own life?

HOW DOES THE HEAVENLY FATHER MOVE YOU TOWARDS YOUR DESTINY?

READ Luke 1:26-38

1. YOUR DESTINY BEGINS WITH FAVOR.

- Mary was highly favored.
- Mary was from Nazareth - Your background and pedigree doesn't change God's ability.
- Your resources do not determine your destiny - Nazareth was a small backwoods town.
- You are not lost to God - Gabriel knew to find Mary.
 - Mary's earthly father is thinking about his daughter and her best interests.
 - Mary was pledged to be married to a descendent of King David. Mary's dad wanted her to marry into the line of an earthly king.
 - God's intention was that she birth a King.

Why do you think people feel abandoned by God, or forgotten by God?

Have you ever had a time in your life where you felt God overlooked or forgot you?

2. YOU HAVE TO SAY "YES" TO FAVOR.

- When God intervenes in your life, flesh will be disturbed and confused.
- Learn to say YES beyond the things you understand.
- You have to say YES to get to the place where God can do the extraordinary in your life.
- Mary's dad wanted her to marry a king, but Mary said YES to birthing a King.
- God's plan was for her to birth the King of kings.
- Mary said YES beyond convenience, in spite of her own desires and dreams.

Why do you think a YES to God can be such an inconvenience to you?

Why do you think it was so easy for Mary to say YES to God's intervention? It was interrupting her life, her wedding plans, her dreams, and hurting her reputation.

Talk about Mary's earthly father's desire for her to marry into the line of a king, verses God's desire for her to birth the King of Kings.

Why is it so easy to settle for our own big dreams and not strive for God's big dreams?

3. FAVOR DOESN'T EXCLUDE YOU FROM FAITHFULNESS.

- Favor doesn't always feel like favor, but if you stick it out you will birth something great.
- Mary had ZERO proof that her saying YES was going to prove true.
- Mary walked in faithfulness. She was willing to change Jesus' dirty diapers.
- Perhaps when she was changing dirty diapers it was easy to forget this was the KING of Kings.
- Favor never excludes you from being faithful.
- Mary saying YES meant she would spend 30 years of her life raising baby Jesus, adolescent Jesus, teenage Jesus, and young adult Jesus before she would ever see her first miracle.

Is there a dream so favorable in you that you could last 30 years just being faithful?

Are you willing to 'change diapers' to achieve your destiny?

Saying YES to God may mean long years of just being faithful - how does that make you feel?

READ John 2:1-11

4. FAITHFULNESS IS THE KEY TO DESTINY

- Jesus' first miracle happened 30 years after Mary first saying YES to God.
- Jesus' first miracle was due to the fact MARY, his mom, requested the miracle be done.
- The miracle here is that Mary is still in the game 30 years later.
- Mary made it to the first miracle. She didn't quit. She didn't give up on the word promised.
- This miracle, water to wine, was proof to all who knew Mary that her faith was now confirmed.

- Her favor produced her faith that brought her glory.
- 30 years of diaper changing and seeing no proof - then, a miracle.

When your miracle shows up, will you still be on the scene?

How do you do when you have ZERO proof?

5. DON'T LET BITTER EXPERIENCES GET YOU OUT OF THE GAME.

READ Lamentations 3:18-23

- Jeremiah was looking at a bitter struggle in front of him.
- Yet, he recalls to his mind HOPE.
- Hope is your key to staying in the game.
- Hope is to be linked to God's faithfulness.
- Hope is to be linked to His mercies.
- Hope can be renewed every morning by simply looking at God's mercy and faithfulness rather than your own problem and frustration.

How can a bitter experience cause you to get out of the game?

How can God's faithfulness remedy your bitter experience?

How would you explain God's mercy to someone who was bitter at life or bitter about God?