

Katie Anderson provision testimony

Who Is In Charge?

I. Intro – Proud of you all. Ways to serve!

Video 1 — you can help! This is big. Likewise Tannon & Christina. Lots of emotional ups and downs. A little hope, then no hope.

II. In Difficulty, stay in love. Don't get suckered into accusation.

Gal 5:1 For Freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit¹ to the yoke of slavery.

Don't get negative and judgmental.

Judge not that you be not judged. I'm **not** saying, “Don't think”, just **“Don't get personally offended!”** at someone you only hear about. **You have great power to pray and believe.**

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only ***faith working through love.***

7 ***You were running well.*** Who hindered you from obeying the truth? **8** This persuasion is not from him who calls you.

Lk 11:34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. **[slide 1]**

9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. **Discern INPUT & RESPONSE**

13 For you were **called to freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.**

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**”

¹ to have a grudge against someone, be burdened with.

SEPARATION – Discouragement, Worry and Hopelessness (No solution in sight), Something is late, we feel like it will never happen!

III. God is in Charge (Sovereign)

A. Joseph

Gen 37:1 Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

2 These are the generations of Jacob. **Joseph**, being **seventeen years** old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. **He was a boy** with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph **brought a bad report** of them to their father. 3 Now Israel **loved Joseph more than any other of his sons**, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a **robe of many colors**. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his **brothers**, they **hated him** and could not speak peacefully to him.

God gave Joseph **dreams**. used Joseph's favor and immaturity to stoke the evil intentions of his brothers to get him to his destiny.

18 They **saw him from afar**, and before he came near to them they **conspired against him to kill him**. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer.

They wanted to kill him!

20 Come now, let us kill him ..., and **we will see what will become of his dreams."**

God (not mentioned) can fine tune the evil intentions (Reuben). Just then a caravan comes along. **Resentment and greed put him in a slave market.**

Favor aroused lust in Potiphar's wife. Her **lust and pride** put Joseph in prison.

Prison positioned Joseph for his destiny.

Gen 45:4 So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph,

whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for **God sent me before you to preserve life.**

Notice he **does not say** that **God turned what they did into good.**

No, **God sent him**, and this is parallel to the action of the brothers, who sold him.²

45:7 And **God sent me** before you **to preserve for you** a remnant on earth, and **to keep alive for you** many survivors. 8 So **it was not you** who sent me here, **but God.** He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.

After Jacob dies...

50:17 ‘Say to Joseph, “**Please forgive** the transgression of **your brothers** and their sin, because they **did evil to you.**” ’ And now, please **forgive** the transgression **of the servants of the God of your father.”** **Joseph wept when they spoke to him.** 18 His brothers also came and **fell down before him** and said, “Behold, **we are your servants.**” 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, **you meant evil against me**, but **God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive**, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

God intended, from the outset, to send Joseph to Egypt! But is it not conceivable that God knew that, without the **dreams**, though the brothers were jealous and bitter... would not be inclined to sell him into slavery? So might it well be the case that ... their plot

² Bruce A. Ware, *God's Greater Glory*, (Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2004), 126.

to kill Joseph was [out of] their desire to prove, ... that Joseph's dreams were false.³

B. Jesus

Psalm 2 ... Acts 4

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said ...¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that **by the name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom **you crucified**, whom **God raised from the dead**—by him this man is standing before you well.

4:27 (In Jerusalem) there were **gathered together against ... Jesus, ... both Herod and Pontius Pilate, ... the Gentiles and ... Israel,**
28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

C. Paul

In ALL these things we are more than conquerors.

2 Tim 4:4-8 Being poured out.... Crown of righteousness.

Beheaded! The Reward is eternal.

Rev. 7:9-11 Who are these? The overcomers of the great tribulation.

CURE FOR MISERY — Not What We Expected

IV. God is in Charge —> Respond in Faith

Thanksgiving and Praise. Thanking God for what He is doing through all this tribulation.

1. Celebrate in HOPE **and** in SUFFERING!

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained **access by faith** into this **grace in which we stand**, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** **3** Not only that, but we **rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that

³ Ibid., 128.

suffering produces **endurance**, 4 and endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope**, 5 and **hope** does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

COUNT IT ALL JOY!

Ja 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

ASK FOR WISDOM!

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

V. God is in Charge —> Release Joy & Thankfulness, Hope, Wisdom

Enter his gates with thanksgiving! courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Ask for creative wisdom

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.