

Title: Joseph: A Roadmap of Destiny

Author: Jon Engler

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INTRO

Good morning! It is a joy and a privilege to open up God's Word with you today.

We are continuing our **Family Portrait** series, looking at a picture of God's design for the family. Today we're going to be focusing in on the younger members of the family – both our immediate families and in our church family.

As we celebrate the next generation today, I want to start off by proclaiming the truth of God's Word: **God loves you, and God created you!**

- **God created you! And that means**
- You are not an accident
- you're not an afterthought
- you're not a leftover project that happened because God had nothing better to do with His time
- But according to Rev. 4:11, **It was God's will/pleasure to make you! He made you on purpose!**

Not only did God make you ON purpose, but He made you WITH purpose!

The Bible says in Psalm 139 that God has written out/preprogrammed all your days in advance.

- He's got your life figured out perfectly, even if you might not.
- ***short pause* And He created you with a purpose and a destiny for His glory and His kingdom.**

It doesn't matter who you are or how old you are; God's given you a destiny! If you read the Bible, you will discover some amazing young people who got started on their destiny at a very early age.

- David, who was a teen when he killed Goliath
- Jeremiah, who was “a mere youth” when God called him into ministry
- Esther, whom God used to save an entire nation from genocide
- Mary, the mother of Jesus

And then we come to the 17-year-old who we’re looking at today: Joseph.

I’ve titled this message **“Joseph: A Roadmap of Destiny”**. As we look at Joseph’s life and example, his story should make us ask some questions:

- **Why did God take Joseph from a lowly slave to 2nd in command of an entire world empire?**
- **How did Joseph learn to walk in his God-given destiny?**
- **And why is Joseph such an important example for you and I to emulate today?**

I believe the answer is that: **Joseph’s destiny was linked to his character.**

Listen:

GOD-HONORING CHARACTER LEADS TO GOD-ORDAINED DESTINY.

Your character will determine your destiny.

If you are **passive** in your character towards God...

- if you’re more concerned with being your own person;
 - doing your own thing;
 - and if you really don’t give God a lot of thought, not unless you need Him for an emergency...
- ...then **a godless character will result in a godless purpose, and a godless destiny. That’s true for both your earthly destiny and your eternal destiny.**

But, if you are **active** in your character towards God...

- if you prioritize God’s Word as the bedrock of truth in your life
- if you communicate with God daily through prayer
- and if you intentionally honor God with all that you do and all that you are
- **A God-honoring character will lead you into a God-ordained destiny.**

Understand: **God's destiny for your life will not be an easy type of destiny...**

- it will not be a simple, tidy, or comfortable destiny...
- but it **will** be God's destiny
- It will be **secure** in His power and His love.
- And we're going to see that lived out as Joseph navigates his God-given destiny.

Before we go to God's Word, let's pray together.

Lord, we thank you for this next generation that You have entrusted into our lives, into our church, and into our community. For those in the next generation who know You already: we pray that their relationship with You would be strengthened, that You would reveal Yourself to them more and more with every day. And for the next generation who do not know You yet; we pray that You would speak to them, and surround them with loving believers who will point them to Jesus and bless them with the Gospel.

And for every generation today – as we learn how to honor You with our character ...we pray that You would speak, that You would move, and that Your Word would communicate your life into our hearts. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

If you have your Bibles, I invite you to turn to **Genesis 37**, which is where we meet Joseph **the Dreamer**.

THE DREAMER

Joseph is a young man who has a God-given purpose, destiny, and dreams...but even though God has a good plan for him, Joseph's character needs some work.

This is an important reality that we sometimes miss when we read about Joseph.

- A lot of people tend to treat Joseph like an innocent victim,
- They romanticize Joseph as a flawless hero who followed his heart and rose above his haters

But when we read the Bible for ourselves, we see that Joseph, at this stage in his life, has some character issues that need some attention. Let's read about it starting in the second half of **verse 2**.

Genesis 37:2-11

2b – At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended sheep with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father. Right out of the gate, we see Joseph tattling on his brothers.

3 – Now Israel [whom the Bible also calls “Jacob”, and that might be the more familiar name] loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph was born to him in his old age, and he made a robe of many colors for him.

4 – When his brothers saw that their father loved [Joseph] more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ROBE

Why is that robe significant? And what does the robe have to do with Joseph’s character?

Well, Bible Commentator Chuck Smith tells us that in Joseph’s day, this type of robe was not just any ordinary robe; this was a special garment **that was worn almost exclusively by “members of the ruling class”¹**. It was a symbol of white-collar, boss-level status. **If you wore this robe, you were conveying the message that “I’m somebody special/important.”**

- So Joseph’s father has given Joseph this unwarranted mantle of superiority.
- And Joseph, either out of arrogance at worst or naiveté at best
- is flaunting/flexing his boss-level status on his blue-collar brothers, who are working in the heat and dirt and grime with the sheep.

In fairness to Joseph, he might not have asked for this special robe or special treatment...**but it does seem from the text that Joseph did not handle his status as discreetly as he should have.**

Verse 5...

5 – Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 – He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had:

¹ [Chuck Smith :: Verse by Verse Study on Genesis 37-38 \(C2000\)](#)

7 – “There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.”

8 – “Are you really going to reign over us?” his brothers asked him. “Are you really going to rule over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 – Then he had another dream, and told *it* to his brothers. “Look,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” [Joseph had 11 brothers, which is where the 11 stars comes from]

10 – He told his father and brothers, and his father rebuked him. “What kind of dream is this that you have had?” he said. “Am I and your mother really going to come and bow down to the ground before you?”

11 – His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

THE DREAMER – TAKEAWAYS

Two important takeaways from this passage:

1) God is the giver of dreams. **speak slowly** God has hardwired each and every one of you with a dream.

- And when I say the word “dream”
- I am ***not*** talking about the self-seeking, materialistic “American dream”
- I’m talking about ***dream*** in terms of the God-given desire to make an impact
- To do something meaningful with our leaves....

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has prepared ***good works*** for us to do...so in that sense, I believe that *a “dream” is simply a God-given motivation to “figure out” what those “good works” are supposed to look like.* So God definitely gives us dreams; and He definitely gave Joseph these dreams.

The problem with Joseph, however, is that at this stage in his life, *Joseph is not focusing his dreams on God. He’s focusing his dreams on HIMSELF instead.*

That leads to the second takeaway from this passage:

2) God gives us dreams for His glory, not ours. Notice how Joseph used his dreams to flex on his brothers.

- “Your sheaves bowed down to *mine*!
- The sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me too!
- I *know* that I wouldn’t be receiving those dreams or wearing this robe
- if I wasn’t somebody special/important/superior!

Your dreams were NOT given to you as a platform for your own glory. **Your dreams were given to you as a platform for God’s glory...not so that you can point people to Your awesomeness, but God’s awesomeness/goodness/His glory.** That’s a lesson we all need to learn, and it’s a lesson that Joseph is about to learn on a very deep level.

Because not long after he has these dreams, God decides that it’s time to send **The Dreamer on A Detour.**

How many of you know that God often uses detours in life to grab our attention?

- Many times, if God sees an issue in us that needs fixing...
- Especially if it’s a **pride** issue; a **patience** issue; or an **obedience** issue

God will use detours...

- He will completely overturn our perfectly mapped-out plans
- and He will use **interruptions**, **delays**, and **crises**
- to **break** us and **humble** us

And as the detour shatters our dreams before our eyes, we are forced to realize that God is all we have left.

- Have you ever had a detour?
- I know I sure have!

And boy oh boy, does God have a DOOZY of a detour for Joseph

THE DETOUR

Let's pick up in **Genesis 37:12**

12 – [Joseph's] brothers had gone to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem.

13 – Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers, you know, are pasturing the flocks at Shechem. Get ready. I'm sending you to them." "I'm ready," Joseph replied.

[Famous last words.]

As Joseph sets out to go find his brothers, little does he know about the ambush that his brothers have prepared for him... They are intending to kill him by throwing him into an old pit, an old water well, and leaving him alone to die of exposure in the wilderness.

23 – When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off Joseph's robe, the robe of many colors he had on. 24 – Then they took him and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty, without water. 25a – They sat down to a meal [what a group of guys. Ambush your brother and have a snack] and when they looked up, there was a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead...[a foreign people group coming across the brothers' path] 26 – Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 – Come on, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him, for he *is* our brother, our own flesh," and his brothers agreed. 28 – When Midianite traders passed by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

Talk about a detour.

Joseph's world has been completely turned upside down.

That robe of many colors – which guaranteed him status, importance, and comfort – has been stripped away.

At this point in Scripture, Joseph seems to drop right off the page. Genesis 38 skips him completely, and there is an 11-year gap until we see him again.

But when we do see Joseph again in Genesis 39, something has changed. God has been doing a renovation in Joseph's life.

God has brought Joseph

- **to** the right place
- **in** the right time
- and **with** the right character
- to discover the purpose that God has laid out for him.

And out of **the Detour**, Joseph is about to discover **the Destiny**.

THE DESTINY

Genesis 39:1:

1 – Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guards, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there. 2 – The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master.

This is the first time in Genesis that Joseph's name and God's name are mentioned together.

- Before this chapter, all we knew about Joseph was **his** status and **his** dreams; that was the center of the story.

But during the Detour, Joseph must have realized that things had to change.

- The status he enjoyed earlier was not enough to be his life foundation.
- And that missing foundation could only be found in God, not in anything or anyone else.
- So, when Joseph shows up again, 11 years after this detour started,
- we see that the LORD is with him.

Let me ask you: Is the LORD with you today?

- Are you living life on your own terms?
- Are you the master of your own destiny?
- Are you writing your story on your own?

Or is the LORD with you?

- Are you in relationship with God today?
- Is He the one whom you serve, whom you follow, and who calls the shots in your life?
- Is the LORD with you?

Because the LORD was with Joseph, Joseph's character began to grow.

Remember what we said earlier: **God-honoring character leads to God-ordained destiny.**

TRANSITION to Building Blocks and SERVICE

Over the rest of our time together, we are going to study **5 Building Blocks of Character from Joseph's life**. *All of these building blocks ought to challenge us in regards to our own lives.* "As Joseph honored God with his character, am I willing to honor with **my** character?"

And the first building block that we see in Joseph is **Service**.

1. SERVICE – Will I honor God by bringing the vitality of Christ to others?

Go back to **Genesis 39:3**:

3 – When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful, 4 – Joseph found favor with his master and became his personal attendant. Potiphar also put him in charge of his household and placed all that he owned under his authority. 5 – From the time that he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph. The LORD's blessing was on all that he owned, in his house and in his fields.

Notice that phrase in verse 5: **The LORD blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph.**

Ask yourself this question: **Who is God blessing because of YOU?**

Wherever you are –

- at school
- at work
- or at church

– is God blessing others? – Not IN SPITE OF You...but because of you!

Listen to Jesus in **Matthew 5:14-16:**

14 – “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 – No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 – In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

SERVICE – Modern Application

In your character, are you shining the light of Christ today?

- When you’re at home with your family...are you shining the light of Christ’s **kindness** to your parents, kids, or spouse?
- When you go to a restaurant...are you shining the light of Christ’s **graciousness** to your server – **REGARDLESS** of their attitude or whether or not they messed up your order?
- When you go to church...are you shining the light of Christ’s **joy** to the people you talk to before and after the service?

Our relationship with Jesus should have a direct impact on our relationships with others. Wherever we are in life, it is so important to always ask ourselves, **“Am I being a blessing right now? Am I honoring God by bringing the vitality of Christ to others?”**

TRANSITION to Integrity

Moving on, we see the second building block of character in Joseph’s life, and that is **Integrity.**

2. INTEGRITY – Will I honor God when no one else is looking?

Second half of verse 6:

6b – Now Joseph was well-built and handsome. 7 – After some time, his master’s wife looked longingly at Joseph and said, “Sleep with me.” 8 – But he refused. “Look,” he said to his master’s wife, “with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has put all that he owns under my authority. 9 – No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do this immense evil, and how could I sin against God?” 10 – Although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her.

The Bible does not give a lot of details about Potiphar’s wife.

- It doesn’t tell us whether she was an attractive beauty queen or a washed-up has-been
- It doesn’t tell us whether she was young enough to be Joseph’s age or old enough to be his mother.

But what it **does** tell us is that this woman pursued Joseph day after day after day...and no matter how hard or how often she tried to rope him in, Joseph chose to honor Potiphar and to honor God by displaying ***integrity***.

In light of that, think of all the temptations that Satan might’ve tried to plant in Joseph’s head.

- “Potiphar’s gone for a week; he’ll never know.”
- “Just do it ***this one time*** to get her off your case, and then she’ll never bother you again.”

There were a whole bunch of excuses and opportunities that Joseph could’ve taken advantage of if he wanted to.

But Joseph chose integrity instead.

Look at his thought process in verse 9.

- My relationship with your husband is at stake
- More importantly, my relationship with God is at stake
- And under ***no circumstances*** will I ***ever*** dishonor God in my actions, regardless of who knows about it or not

INTEGRITY – Modern Application

One of the Devil's number one traps is to trick us into downplaying and devaluing integrity. "No one knows." "No one's looking. What do you have to lose?" You have **everything to lose**. Just look at history!

- If you're older, you'll likely remember the Watergate Scandal from the 70's. That scandal happened because of decisions and conversations which took place when supposedly "no one was ever going to know".
- In the modern day, look at the Johnny Depp/Amber Heard situation. There was a whole history of hidden behavior...which "no one was ever going to know about" ...and now it's all over the headlines and tabloids.
- Then in our own church world, think about all the pastors and Christian leaders who have crashed and burned from a lack of integrity.
- Just in the last two weeks, one of the largest denominations in America was exposed as having a widespread problem with covering up sexual abuse in its churches.
- For 20 years, this denomination turned a blind eye to this problem and tried to save face, but now there are literally hundreds of scandals surfacing to the light all at once, and *this lack of integrity has brought horrific dishonor to the Name of Jesus Christ.*

The Bible tells us very clearly just how much God values integrity.

Proverbs 10:9 – The one who lives with integrity lives securely, but whoever perverts his ways will be found out (HCSB).

Proverbs 11:3 – The integrity of the upright guides them; but the perversity of the treacherous destroys them.

Proverbs 4:23-26 – Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life. Don't let your mouth speak dishonestly, and don't let your lips talk deviously. Let your eyes look straight forward; fix your gaze straight ahead. Carefully consider the path for your feet, and all your ways will be established.

We should always be prepared to honor God with integrity in our character – even when that integrity comes at a cost. And the rest of Genesis 39 tells us about the high cost that Joseph had to pay for his integrity.

TRANSITION to Perseverance

Because Joseph refused to sleep with his master's wife, she falsely accused Joseph of assaulting her; and because of his integrity, Joseph wound up in prison.

It is in this prison that we see the third building block of character in Joseph's life: **Perseverance.**

3. PERSEVERANCE – Will I honor God in circumstances I didn't ask for?

Life for Joseph had gone from bad to worse. He was betrayed by his brothers, then again by Potiphar's wife.

Yet Genesis 39 ends by saying:

39:21 – But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor with the prison warden. 22 – The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there.

23 – The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him, and the LORD made everything that he did successful.

In the walls of a prison, where many might be tempted to give up, Joseph displays relentless perseverance.

- He serves God well;
- He looks out for his fellow prisoners;
- He keeps everything running smoothly and in order.

That's not to say that Joseph lives in denial about his circumstances; in **Genesis 40:14**, Joseph speaks to a prisoner who is about to be paroled, and he says "Hey, just so you know, I'm not supposed to be here; I'm innocent; please put in a good word for me when you get out."

So, it's not like Joseph is just trying to put on a brave face. He's very aware of how difficult things are. **But nonetheless, even as he's there – and even as Joseph is forgotten by the very parolee who was supposed to remember him – Joseph continues to serve God well through perseverance.**

PERSEVERANCE – Modern Day Application

For those of you who are younger...life will test you with extremely difficult circumstances. Some of you might be facing those circumstances right now. Or maybe, you're thinking, "If I can just finish high school, life will be much easier." Guess what? Life just gets harder! Until the day you die, you will always face steep mountains and tough circumstances on this side of heaven.

And in those circumstances, there are two choices you have:

- 1. You can grouch. *pause*** You can blame others, blame the devil, and come up with a million excuses why "I'm just a victim and it's everybody else's fault".
- 2. You can grow.** Just like Joseph, you can respond to hard times by saying,
 - "God, this season hurts, this pain hurts...but it won't stop me from honoring you.
 - It won't stop me from serving You and serving others with my very best.
 - So God, as long as I'm in this situation
 - I pray that this time would not be wasted,
 - and that You would use these circumstances to shape me and grow me
 - into the person You want me to become."

Listen to James 1:2-4:

2 – Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 – because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 – And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Will you let endurance have its full effect? Will you honor God in circumstances you didn't ask for?

TRANSITION to Humility

Eventually in Joseph's life, that season of hard circumstances comes to an end. God takes Joseph from the depths of the prison to the heights of the palace.

And as Joseph's life turns around, there's a fourth building block that the Scripture points out, and that is **Humility**.

4. HUMILITY – Will I honor God when my influence grows?

In **Genesis 41**, Pharaoh, king of Egypt, has a dream. It's a bizarre nightmare that no one on his staff can make any sense of. One of Pharaoh's employees just so happens to be the old parolee who forgot Joseph in prison; and the employee finally remembers Joseph and says to Pharaoh, "I think I know someone who can help you out with your dream."

So, Joseph gets summoned from the prison; he gets all cleaned up and arrives in the palace; and then in Genesis 41:15...:

15 – Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it." Your influence precedes you; I've heard you're a pretty awesome dude.

BUT WATCH JOSEPH'S RESPONSE.

16 – "I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Do you remember just two chapters earlier, when Joseph was a teenager, and his dad asked him to go out to the fields, and Joseph said, "I'm ready! I can handle this! You've got the right guy!"

Notice how this response has the exact opposite attitude.

"Well Pharaoh, I can't interpret your dream on my own. But God can! He's the One you need to listen to, not me." Joseph turns the attention right back to God instead of hogging it for his own influence.

And all throughout the rest of Chapter 41

- as Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream,
- as his influence in Egypt grows
- and as Joseph is promoted to second-in-command of the entire empire,
- he continues to act with humility.

He's not flexing his position like he used to when he was a kid; now, he's just staying grounded, working hard, and getting his job done, quietly and modestly.

HUMILITY – Modern Application

Students, as you excel in your work, the Bible says in Proverbs 22:29 that God will set you up with some special opportunities. When those opportunities of influence come your way, it is ***extra important*** that you remember the God who gave you those opportunities in the first place. That's why the Bible says, **"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you."**

Don't get caught up in the rat-race of self-promotion. Wherever life takes you, and no matter where you end up next – ***walk in humility***, and allow your influence to be expanded by ***God***, not you.

TRANSITION to Dreams Meet Destiny

The next several chapters are a whirlwind of time and emotion for Joseph. Because God brought Joseph to Egypt, and ultimately into Pharaoh's court, Joseph was in the right place at the right time to fulfill his God-given destiny...***and a big part of that destiny was to warn Pharaoh about a terrible famine that would affect Egypt and the surrounding nations*** (Genesis 41:53-54).

- Not only did God use Joseph to predict the famine
- but God also gave Joseph the wisdom and foresight to set up a food program – a long-term "emergency reserve" so that Egypt could survive the famine.
- God blessed this project so much that other nations took notice; people and families began coming in from all over the world to buy grain in Egypt.

And one of those families just so happened to be a group of brothers – the same brothers who sold Joseph into slavery decades earlier.

Genesis 42:5-6

5 – [Joseph’s brothers] were among those who came to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6 – Joseph was in charge of the country; he sold grain to all its people. His brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground.

There it is. There’s the dream starting to meet the destiny. **Before the book of Genesis is over, Joseph’s brothers will bow down to him two more additional times – once in Chapter 43 and again in Chapter 50.**

Even though Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. So, over the next few chapters, Joseph puts his brothers through some tests.

- He tests their honesty;
- he tests their loyalty;
- and he doesn’t reveal his identity right away.

But eventually, he does reveal his identity to them...and it’s here, in the last pages of Joseph’s story, where we find our 5th and last building block of character: GRACE.

5. GRACE – Will I honor God by loving those who deserve it the least?

In Genesis 45, Joseph reveals his identity and initiates reconciliation with his brothers. And not only does he reconcile with them, but Joseph actually invites his brothers and his father to pack up and move in next to him! He invites them to settle in the neighboring land of Goshen full-time.

So the whole family relocates next door to Joseph. Joseph willingly takes care of his father and brothers; there’s a happy family reunion for a few more years.

But after a while, the brothers’ father, Jacob, eventually passes away. **And when Jacob dies, Joseph’s brothers start to worry that Joseph might change his mind about having them next door.**

Genesis 50:15

15 – When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said to one another, “If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the suffering we caused him.” So, in a panic, they plead Joseph for mercy, they beg for forgiveness; they bow down to him again – for a third time!

And look at Joseph's response of grace:

Genesis 50:19

But Joseph said to [his brothers], "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 – You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result – the survival of many people. 21 – Therefore, don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

I'm sure we all agree that Joseph's brothers did not deserve that level of grace.

- They treated Joseph horribly
- they acted out of jealousy, anger, and malice towards him
- and it would've been very easy for Joseph to say, "Alright, Dad's gone. Party's over. Get lost."

But instead of beating his brothers down, Joseph offers grace.

- "Yes, you planned evil against me;
- "But look at what God has done in His goodness and grace.
- "Look at the destiny He has led me into!
- "Because God has taken such good care of **me**,
- "The least I can do is to take good care of **you too**."

CONCLUSION

You and I are very much like Joseph's brothers. Just as Joseph's brothers were hostile to him, the Bible says that at one time, you and I were hostile to God, and we were alienated from Him because of our sinful nature – that spiritual "factory defect" which has affected every human being ever born.

But the Bible also says in Romans 5 that while we were still sinners – while we still hated God and wanted nothing to do with Him – Christ died for us...and He offers us grace...

- Grace to **wash** away our **sin**
- Grace to **restore** us to **right relationship** with Him.
- Grace to **build** our **character**.
- And grace to **secure** our **destiny**.

Maybe you're not sure where your destiny is headed today; or maybe you realize that your character needs to be reinforced with some of the building blocks we talked about.

Wherever you find yourself, take hope in this: God is offering grace to you!

So as we close, right here in this moment:

- No matter the week you've had or the life you've lived
- No matter what you've done or haven't done
- Let's take some time to ask God for a fresh outpouring of His grace
- Into our character, into our destiny, and into our lives

Lord God, we thank You that You love us. For everyone hearing this message, we pray that they would know the reality of Your grace in a tender and meaningful way, right here, right now in this moment.

We thank You for the ultimate expression of Your grace – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which ensures that You will help us grow in character, and You will secure our destiny – right up until the day where we meet You face to face. We love You and trust You.

May Your grace go with all of us today. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

Go in the grace of God!

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