

Ye Thought Evil Against Me But God Meant It Unto Good

By: David A. Sargent

Genesis 50:20, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”

This is an event which happened in Egypt after they buried Israel, and Joseph’s brothers asked for forgiveness. This is Joseph’s wise answer. For the Christian this is even more true as we have many of the precious promises that were given and like I said even more so because it was the devil that thought to do us evil; but God meant it for our good: **Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.”** This covers more than just one event, for us it covers every moment of our lives; even the parts prior to our salvation and of those things that brought us unto the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

This is a great and precious promise to know that our God considers us. I am talking about saved people at the moment. God considers us; He considers us sons, heirs, just before him, righteous, and holy. Why would God consider us this way? Because when God sees us, He sees His Son. And we are in Him. God is for us, and so God considers us, and God is for us. That is to say, God is on our side. God wants what is best for us.

Sometimes bad things seem to happen and things cannot be explained; no reasons given. Yet when we view these things from the Bible; our perspective should be that these things only appear bad; when in fact they are actually good. We have just not seen the end of it yet. Sometimes things must be divided to be put together; and sometimes it takes hard times to bring us to our knees in prayer to God. God wants your fellowship; God wants your stewardship, and God wants your discipleship.

Understanding what God wants for you is important; but trusting God is more important when you cannot understand what God is doing when hard times come. You must trust in the Lord always. But especially in the hard times; and look at your “ships” to see if you have them in good standing.

The “ship is sinking” if these are not in order. You must remain in good standing with the Lord else the Lord will have to deal with you to get you back in standing with Him. So you do not make shipwreck of your life. The fact is when bad things happen to you, you need to look at your life to see if these things need fixing. 1 Timothy 1:18-19, “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, **according to the prophecies which went before on thee**, that thou **by them** mightest **war a good warfare**; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith **have made shipwreck:**”

1. Fellow Ship: fellowship is very vital to being in right standing with the Lord.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:9, “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto **the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**”
 - b. 1 Corinthians 10:20, “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and **I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.**”
 - c. 2 Corinthians 6:14, “**Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?** and what communion hath light with darkness?”
 - d. 2 Corinthians 8:4, “Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the **fellowship of the ministering to the saints.**”
 - e. Ephesians 3:9, “And to make all men see what is **the fellowship of the mystery,** which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:”
 - f. Ephesians 5:11, “And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,** but rather reprove them.”
 - g. Philippians 1:5, “For **your fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now;”
 - h. Philippians 3:10, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings,** being made conformable unto his death;”
 - i. 1 John 1:3, “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that **ye also may have fellowship with us:** and truly **our fellowship is with the Father,** and **with his Son Jesus Christ.**”
 - j. 1 John 1:6-7, “If we say that **we have fellowship with him,** and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another,** and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
2. Steward Ship: stewardship is very vital to being in right standing with the Lord.
 - a. Luke 16:1-13, “And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a **steward**; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? **give an account of thy stewardship;** for thou mayest **be no longer steward.** Then **the steward said within himself,** What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me **the stewardship:** I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am **put out of the stewardship,** they may receive me into their houses. So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore. And **the lord commended the unjust steward,** because **he had done wisely:** for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And

I say unto you, **Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness**; that, **when ye fail**, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. **He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much**: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, **who will commit to your trust the true riches**? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you **that which is your own**? **No servant can serve two masters**: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**”

3. Disciple Ship: discipleship is very vital to being in right standing with the Lord.
 - a. Matthew 10:16-40, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: **be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves**. But **beware of men**: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings **for my sake**, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, **take no thought how or what ye shall speak**: for **it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak**. For it is not ye that speak, but **the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you**. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men **for my name's sake**: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. **The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord**. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and **what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops**. And **fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul**: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But **the very hairs of your head are all numbered**. Fear ye not therefore, **ye are of more value than many sparrows**. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword**. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. **He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me**: and he

that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”

- b. Luke 6:37-49, “**Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.** And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? **The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.** And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye. **For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit.** For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, **and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.** But he that heareth, and **doeth not**, is like a man that **without a foundation** built an house upon the earth; against which **the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.”**
- c. Acts 9:10-26, “And there was a certain **disciple** at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, **I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy

way: **for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.** And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, **Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.** And **immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.** And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. **Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.** And **straightway he preached Christ** in the synagogues, **that he is the Son of God.** But **all that heard him were amazed,** and said; **Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem,** and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and **confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.** And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. **Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.** And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, **he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple."**

1 Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto **his eternal glory** by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."**

Romans 8:18, "For **I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."**

Romans 8:35-39, "**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** For **I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

The End