

Long walk to Freedom

In South Africa we are all familiar with the story of Nelson Mandela who spent 27 yrs in jail before he became president of the country. He also wrote a book with the title of Longwalk to Freedom, about his journey, including everything he had to endure.

Likewise if we think about our lives, as well as those mentioned in the bible, there is always a long path to take before there is victory.

In Genesis 27-33 we read the story of Jacob, who had to work for 14 yrs for Laban. From when he left his parents house until he returned was about 20 years, when he did not see his parents. Laban crooked him, changed his wages 10 times and tried everything to get as much as possible out of him.

In the entire book of Job we read about his hardships, when he, as the rich man, lost everything in life except for his wife and his own life. The story also clearly shows the gravity of decisions made in the court of Heaven in Job 1.

Also, in Genesis we read about Joseph being sold as a slave at the age of 17. He had to go to jail for a crime he did not commit and was only released at either 30 years or 47 years of age (theologians differ on the timescale.) Jacob did not see his beloved son, Joseph for either 39 years or 67 yrs. (The different counts were briefly discussed, but is not important to the essence of this sermon and therefore not included herewith.)

David was between 13 and 17 yrs old when he face Goliath, the one big victory everyone saw. Yet, he had to endure persecution from king Saul until about 14/15 years later when he was crowned king in Judah.

Jesus had to go through rabbi school for 18 years. (At the age of 12 he was tested in the temple and only the best students would go to rabbi school thereafter. At the age of 30 he graduated. Remember that He had to submit to humans all that time until He, the King of the Universe, could be released as rabbi according to their laws and traditions. He did this willingly.)

Read also Mat 6, Phil 4, 1 Cor 9

After living your life in obedience and submission to the leaders that God placed in your life, you will have victory. None of the above people had it easy and you can surely testify of the same. Yet, today we need to remember that we need to have hope because look at what happened to these people:

Jacob became rich and the father of the 12 tribes of Israel,

Joseph became viceroy.

Job died being the richest man in the East again, having 20 children in heaven at the end of the day and having a book in the bible named after him..

Jesus became the Saviour.

Remember Jer 29:11, Psalm 37, and Jabez.

(Here we listened to testimonies. Can you relate and think of your experiences?)

Your life story will take all of your living time. What will it be? At the end of the day, will it be about overcoming like all these people in the bible?

Most successful people have gone through much hardship, most of their time. Or they had to work very hard with no reward, quietly.

It is important that we keep the right attitude. We need to be content and thankful, not complaining and unthankful. We may never compare ourselves to others, to complain why they have it easier or ever be jealous. We need to be humble and not always wish for better things. We need to check that we are not materialistic or be concerned with money and possessions like the prosperity preachers. We need to live our lives and live to help others. God expects this of us. At the end we will become wiser, stronger, overcome situations and our shortcomings and we will then receive dominion from the King.

Will you decide to continue on the path that God laid out for you?

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