

God Can Turn It Around

July 4, 2010

Let's look at **Deuteronomy 3**. In **Verse 3**, God is saying that the Ammonites and the Moabites shall not enter the assembly of the Lord, even to the 10th generation. **Verse 4** tells us why. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt and were traveling through the Sinai Desert on their way to the Promised Land, neither the Ammonites nor the Moabites offered them bread and water, and they hired the false prophet Balaam to curse them.

Look now at **Verse 5**. "Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you." I want you to get hold of something. If you will get hold of it by faith, God can turn your situation around for you. The devil is trying to curse us. He hates us, because we are worshippers and servants of the Most High God.

Satan once was a worshipper. He no longer is a worshipper, and he is trying to curse us and to kill us; but God says, "but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you." You may not feel it sometimes, but He loves you anyhow.

God can turn a victim into a victor. There are people here today that have been victims. Some of you have been treated cruelly. Some of you have been abused, but God can turn a victim into a victor, and God can turn a whiner into a winner. He can! Some of you complain all the time, but God can turn your complaining into praising. Just press on through it, and I believe God can turn you into a winner. I believe that. You can have victory over it.

Jesus Christ can go where no other man can go. He can go into your emotions. He can go into your mind and into your heart. He not only saves your soul, but He can bring you victory over all the things that have happened to you.

If you will look at **Genesis 39**, **God turned it around for Joseph**. Joseph was his daddy's favorite, and his brothers were jealous of him. We need to get jealousy out of the church. We ought to rejoice with those whom God has blessed. Then God filled Joseph with dreams. He told his brothers about his dreams, and they became even more envious. Finally, they threw him into a pit and sold him into slavery.

He was taken into Egypt and ended up in Potiphar's house. While in Potiphar's house, Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, but he held on to his convictions. Some of you need to hold on to your Bible-based convictions. My convictions are Bible-based, and I have to stand my ground on my convictions. Joseph was a man that stood on his convictions. He did not compromise, and you cannot compromise your convictions. Be a man or a woman of purity.

When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, he would not succumb to it. He would not compromise his convictions, and he ran. He ran from the very presence of temptation. She accused him of seducing her, and Potiphar believed his wife. So he went from Potiphar's house to prison. This is going to be an amazing thing for you. What God did for Joseph, He can do for you! The victim turned into a victor.

I'm sure it didn't seem like overnight, but literally one night Joseph is in prison, and the next day he is in a palace. One day he is a prisoner, and the next day he is the prime minister of Egypt. How can that be? God turned it around. **God can take a tragedy and turn it into a triumph!**

Joseph was a prisoner down in the dungeons, and the Bible says that the Lord was with him; and seemingly overnight in **Genesis 41:40**, God makes him second in command of all of Egypt. My God can turn it around! I know some of you are discouraged, but whatever prison Satan has locked you up in, God can get you out of there overnight!

There are people in this house today that are in prison. There are people in this house that are chained and bound to certain habits, but I declare unto you, by the authority of God's Word, whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

I'm getting tired and weary of watching the news almost week in and week out and seeing where another meth lab has been found in St. Albans. The devil tries to counterfeit the spiritual high of knowing Jesus with drugs, alcohol, and illicit sex. The purpose of entertainment today in America is that it is trying to give you a little joy that you have not yet found in Jesus. Entertainment is the counterfeit for the joy of knowing and serving Jesus.

People are beginning to become numb to the gutter language of this world. What used to make us blush doesn't anymore. Now it has become a normal part of life, but I say nay, nay! God is such a good God that He does not want to leave us in a prison. He does not want to leave us in a dungeon. He wants to turn it around for us, get us up, and get us out.

Jeremiah 32:17 says, "Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."

We all have had setbacks in our lives. As we go along on this journey of life, the devil will try and sabotage our destinies, but **God can turn your setbacks into comebacks**. When the devil tries to kill you, God can take that tombstone and make it a stepping stone and take you higher than you have ever been before. Satan wants to put you down, but my God wants to lift you up! I'm trying to encourage you to believe that God can turn it around for you, and remember that nothing is too hard for God.

God turned it around for Moses. Moses was spared when he was a baby, and God's hand was upon him. In **Exodus 2:11-12**, we see where Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and when he thought no one was looking, he killed the Egyptian. When Pharaoh found out about it, he came after Moses and he fled. Moses was a deserter. He left his family. He left his position, and he left his people. He deserted them and went to live in the desert.

One day while tending to his father-in-law's sheep, God caught a bush on fire. God spoke to Moses, and in **Exodus 3:10**, God told him He was going to make **the deserter a deliverer**. Do you know that God can take the biggest loser in this house and turn him or her into the greatest leader in the church? Only God can do that. **God can take the foolish things of this world and confound the**

wise! He can turn it around.

All of us go through tests at one time or another. I have never liked tests, but **God can turn a test into a testimony**. Can I get a witness? No one wants to go through a test, but you can't have a testimony until you go through a test.

God can take the biggest battle you have ever been in and turn it into a blessing. God turned it around for David. David was a sheep-puncher and a harp-plucker. God chooses unusual people. Then Samuel comes and anoints David. Saul was the king at that time, but Saul had the position and not the anointing. David had the anointing, but he didn't have the position.

For 40 days, a giant taunted Saul and his army; and God takes this shepherd boy from the back side of the desert and brings him to Saul's camp. Every man was afraid to take on the giant, even Saul. So David steps up, and in **1 Samuel 17:45-47** he says to Goliath, "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you."

With a sling and one stone, he hits Goliath smack dab in the forehead, and Goliath falls on his face. David takes Goliath's sword, cuts off his head, and wins the battle. God turned that battle into a blessing for that shepherd boy, and the people began to sing. Look at what they sang in **1 Samuel 18:7**.

"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands," and all of a sudden David is the talk of the town. The battle becomes a blessing, the test becomes a testimony, and David becomes the king of all of Israel. God took a shepherd boy and made him a king. I wonder what God can make out of you?

Right now, some of you are in a big battle; but I believe God can take your big battle, turn it around and make it your biggest blessing, if you don't quit. One day your test is going to be your greatest testimony, because God is going to turn it around for you.

God can turn your mess into a miracle. Some of the messes we get into are our own fault. AMEN? We get into messes because of our choices, but sometimes our messes are not our fault. **God turned it around for Paul and Silas.**

Paul and Silas were thrown into jail because they cast a demon out of a fortune-teller. **Acts 16:16** says, "Now it happened, as we (Paul and Silas) went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling."

Paul rebuked that demon and cast that demon out of her, and her owners got so upset that they went before the magistrates, dragged Paul and Silas before them, beat them, and threw them into a dungeon. Their backs are bleeding, their hands and feet are shackled, and it's midnight.

Sometimes people act like midnight is the darkest part of the night, but let me tell you something. There is a revelation about midnight I want to share with you. When midnight comes, an old day is passing away and a new day is coming. So at midnight, the old thing is passing away, and God is

getting ready to do a new thing in that jailhouse. That jailhouse was getting ready to rock!

Look at **Verse 25**. It's midnight, and Paul and Silas are "praying and singing hymns to God." It's amazing what problems do to us, but if we could let our problems turn into praise, something will happen. If you will raise a praise, God will do something for you. These men have been beaten, they're in a mess; but suddenly the prison begins to shake, and everyone's prison doors are opened.

When God turns your mess into a miracle, it will not only affect YOU, but it will also affect those around you. Everyone's prison doors were opened, and everyone's chains were broken. When God heard the men of God's praise, something happened. The earth began to shake, and **Verse 26** says, "and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed." Everyone was affected when God began to turn it around for Paul and Silas.

When the jailer, who had been asleep, realized what was happening, he pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself when Paul said, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then the jailer gets saved, his family gets saved, because God turned it all around for Paul and Silas at the midnight hour.

I say to you that God is going to turn it around for you in the midnight hour. When you think it's not going to happen, but you're holding on by faith, God still hears that faint whisper of praise, and God will move and turn your mess into a miracle.

God can turn your problem into a promotion. In **Matthew 19:26** Jesus said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Do you believe that? All things are possible with God.

In **Acts 9**, Saul (who became Paul) was on a mission to persecute the church. He was out to destroy God's church. He is on a road to Damascus to arrest, persecute, and imprison God's people; and on that Damascus road, he is knocked down by the power of God. Sometimes God uses unusual things to get our attention.

When the light of God hit Saul, he went to his knees, and God turned **the oppressor into an apostle**. He turned **the persecutor into a prophet**. Isn't that amazing? I stand amazed that God would take someone that was attacking the church, turn it around for them, and turn them into an apostle and a prophet of God.

God then tells a man called Ananias to go to Damascus and lay his hands on Saul. In **Verse 15** God says, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel." He sent Paul as a messenger to the Gentiles. That's us! God is going to take the one you don't think He can use and turn them into a spokesman for God!

Remember, our ways aren't God's ways, and our thoughts aren't God's thoughts. God likes the hard cases. He likes the one that is on the run. He likes the one that thinks they are the know-it-all. He likes to get hold of the one that blasts the church and makes fun of Jesus. God loves to get hold of the hard cases.

We all have obstacles that get in our way from time to time, and the size of the obstacle is different for different people; but I have found out in my walk with Jesus, that **God can turn an obstacle into an opportunity**. Sometimes He puts an obstacle in our path in order to slow us down and build up our faith. He wants us to use our obstacles as opportunities to witness to others.

God can turn a sinner into a saint. A woman was caught in the act of adultery. She was brought before Jesus, and her accusers wanted her to be stoned. In **John 8:7** Jesus said, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." He knelt down and began to write on the ground, and when He got back up, there was no one around but her.

In **Verse 10** He says, "Woman, where are your accusers?" She said, "They have all left." Jesus turned **a sinner into a saint**. He said, "Neither do I condemn you (that means you're forgiven), go and sin no more."

In **John 4**, Jesus is sitting at a well, and a woman comes to get water from the well. Jesus starts up a conversation with her. She was a wayward woman. She had been married a few times, and the man she was currently living with was not her husband. I don't know what YOU call that, but the Bible calls it sin. She was living in sin, and in **Verse 23** Jesus says to her, "Do you know that My Father is looking for worshippers?" Well, my God can turn a wayward woman into a worshipper!

When she realizes who He is, she runs into town and begins to witness (**Verses 28-29**). She said, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" I don't know about you, but I'm not sure I would want to meet someone that could tell me everything I had done; but she is excited about it, because she senses that she has been forgiven.

In **Verse 39** it says, "And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified." That means that God not only turned this wayward woman into a worshipper, but He also turned her into a witness. What can He do with me and you? I believe with all my heart that if this message can get IN us, that God can turn it around for us.

May God help you to see your obstacles as opportunities, and may God turn your messes into miracles. God can turn it around for you today.