

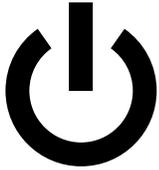


**Speaker:** Kondo Simfukwe

**Title:** A Favorable Resolve

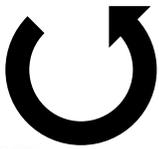
**Summary:** Resolve knows God is with us through pain, pit, and prison.

**Key Verses:** Genesis 37-50, especially 37:19-20; 39:2-7; 45:9



**Power Up:** *Take a moment to prepare*

Kondo opens by describing resolve as “pre-deciding” to do God’s will whenever, wherever, and whatever he asks. What’s He asking of you?



**Replay:** *Take some time to watch*

Note Kondo’s three points: **1)** The power of resolve is greater than the pain of your past; **2)** The power of resolve is even greater than your most unwanted season; **3)** Resolve realizes God is greater than all the people, power, or places we long for; He is our true palace.



**Comment:** *Take some time to talk*

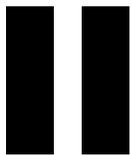
Kondo calls Joseph’s tale “a dark story of family abuse, betrayal, rejection, and abandonment...that brings a smile to [his] face.” **Why does it make him smile? What transpires in Joseph’s life? How does he respond?**

Kondo suggests we often let the pain of our past “paint the rest of our story.” **What past pains—inherited or self-inflicted—have shaped you for better or worse? How has God helped you overcome past pains?**

Kondo observes, “When you realize God is with you, you know you’re not stuck; you are strategically placed.” **Where do you feel stuck? How can God use this season to prosper those around you, like with Joseph?**

**How can trusting God’s sovereignty improve your attitude/work ethic?**

Kondo calls God the “Palace” we all seek. **How do you keep God first?**



**Pause:** *Take a moment to pray*

Thank God for never leaving or forsaking us. Thank God for his rule over every second, season, and circumstance of our lives. Ask God for greater resolve to trust Him, treasure Him, and testify to others.



**Take Action:** *Make it personal*

The key to Joseph’s resolve was his awareness of God’s presence. Missionary Frank Laubach made a game of thinking of God-with-him. He trained himself to think of God every hour. Then every half-hour. Then every ten minutes. Then every minute. Give it a try. God be with you.

## Bonus Features: Additional Notes and Quotes from Kondo Simfukwe

### Joseph: a figure of favorable resolve

- **His story:** see Genesis 37-50 → from prized to pit to Potiphars to prison to palace
- **His siblings:** 1 of 12 brothers; hated by them.

“Joseph was the brother his brothers loved to hate. For us it is just a story, but for Joseph it was incredibly dark... It goes from dark to deadly.”

- **His status:** Joseph was Dad’s favorite (got a coat) AND God’s favorite (given dreams).

### **The power of resolve is greater than the pain of your past.**

“What God does in and through us is not determined by our past...Your past will always be a part of your story but doesn’t have the power to determine where the story ends.”

“God’s not looking for pretty Yesterdays but resolved Todays for a beautiful Tomorrow.”

**Read Genesis 39:2ff:** “Jo kicked slavery’s butt. He’s trustworthy and excellent. Respected. He does it because the sovereign Lord is with me. I’m not working for Potiphar, I’m working for God. God is my boss. Potiphar is the beneficiary of Jo’s resolve.”

“Joseph acted like God was really his warden and lived for Him.”

### **The power of resolve is even greater than your most unwanted season.**

#### Examples of Unwanted Seasons

- Singleness – it feels like your stuck in a sentence you don’t want to be in
- Homelife – can’t wait to graduate.
- School – the teacher and students are awful; I’d transfer if I could.
- Reputation/Rumors – I’m misunderstood.
- Job, medical, etc.

“If the sovereign Lord is with you, you can prosper in what feels like prison”

“*What* is the season is less important than *Who* is with me... *What* God wants to bring into a season is more important than *how* He gets me out....”

### **Resolve realizes God is greater than all the people, power, or places we long for.**

“[Joseph] honors God in the palace like [he did] in prison... If you don’t honor God in private, you won’t honor him on the platform.”

“[Someday you’ll realize] it’s God you ultimately wanted, longed for, discovered. Resolve is NOT a means to an END...It’s not about the palace, but the One taking me there. God is the palace my heart ultimately wanted. God got me there.”

Our declaration: “God is my palace. I came because I thought Momentum might take me somewhere. But Momentum takes you to Someone. He is our treasure, our palace.”