

Midweek Study Lesson 08/05/2026

Sunday August 9, 2026

FAVOR AIN'T FAIR! Exodus 33:19, Ephesians 2:8 - 9

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I. Getting to Know “Yourself”

Reflection: Where has human logic boxed in your expectations of God? Work, family, ministry, finances, or healing? What did it look like when you took God out of your box?

Explain the following points in reference to Sunday's sermon.

1. GOD'S FAVOR Surpasses Our Standards. –

2. God's FAVOR Secures Success. –

3. God's FAVOR Sustains Strugglers. –

Observation Question:

In Genesis 39:21, what was Joseph's situation when God gave him favor, and what does that say about where favor can show up?

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Interpretation Question

Ephesians 2:8-9 says salvation is a gift and not of works. How does that truth guard a believer from pride on one side and hopelessness on the other?

Application Question

Favor is not only about open doors; it also keeps the heart straight. Where is there a need for God's favor to help with emotions, impulses, bitterness, or temptation?

AMMO

1 Samuel 16:7

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.""

Genesis 39:21

"But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

- **Key Takeaways**

- **1. Favor breaks the logic box.**

- Human logic expects fairness, qualifications, and predictable outcomes, but God's favor does not report to human standards. The same God who made iron float and dry bones live still acts beyond what makes sense on paper. Favor becomes visible when God's choice interrupts what people thought was possible.

- **2. God chooses the overlooked vessel.**

- Divine favor does not wait for a polished background or public approval. Moses, David, Rahab, Matthew, Peter, and Paul all carried stains, weaknesses, or reputations that people could use against them. God's choosing shows that calling is deeper than credentials, and mercy can reach places respectability refuses to enter.

- **3. Favor stays in the fire.**

- Favor does not promise a problem free life, and it does not always remove the trial. Favor means God's presence holds a person steady inside the fire, flood, and fight. The furnace becomes a witness when God brings a soul out without even the smell of smoke.

- **4. Favor prepares for the blessing.**

- God sometimes allows struggle because untested hands may mishandle what grace gives. The waiting, the pressure, and the pain can put "skin in the game," forming a deeper capacity to appreciate what God is bringing. Favor is not only rescue from hardship, but preparation for stewardship.

- **5. Favor keeps the soul watchful.**

- Favor is more than open doors, paid bills, and visible blessing. Favor warns when sin is crouching at the door and when the enemy only needs a crack to get back in. God's favor keeps the believer tied to God's truth instead of emotions, opinions, or the deceitfulness of the heart.