



## SPIDERMAN AND JOSEPH BY JOSH PEASE

So I'm huge into movies. LOVE them actually. When I'm in a movie theater I end up thinking I'm actually IN the movie. But sometimes a movie is so predictable, it's hard to lose myself in it. For instance, I recently saw that rebooted Spiderman movie and even though I enjoyed it, it wasn't very original. The plot was like every superhero movie:

*Hero gets super-cool powers. Hero struggles to understand super-cool powers while fighting a bizarre mutant enemy. Hero ultimately triumphs, finds identity, and looks over his city while epic music swells.*

But I realized something recently: the plot in a superhero movie is predictable to me because I know it's a story. To the characters IN the movie it's not predictable at all because they DON'T know that their lives are a story. Think about the first third of Spiderman: Peter Parker is a nerdy kid who is orphaned by his parents, picked on at school, ignored by the girl he loves, and who is (kind of) responsible for his uncle's death. Now because we're watching the movie (and we know there's, like, another hour and a half to go) we're thinking, "That's sad, but I bet this all works out"...and then it does and everything ends happily ever after. But imagine for a second that you're Peter Parker and all that just happened to YOU: your reaction would be WAAAAY different.

I mean, just think about how you react to bad stuff now:

- a test that you did bad on
- a friend who let you down
- a situation at home that's tough
- a guy/girl that rejected you
- a bald spot that's taking over your head (maybe that's just me)

My point is this: when bad stuff happens to us it's the end of the world. We get super freaked out, or depressed, or maybe we get mad at God and wonder, "Why would He let this happen?!" But what if we thought of our life like a movie? In Genesis, there's a story of a guy named Joseph (you can read his whole story in Gen. 37-46). Early in his life, God tells Joseph "I've got big plans for you!" Then, Joseph is betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused of rape, thrown into prison, and then forgotten about by people who could get him out. He's the Peter Parker of Bible characters (minus mutant spider abilities...I think).

But like Peter Parker, Joseph's story isn't over yet. As a matter of fact, God uses all of these really bad things to tell an AWE-SOME story with his life. By the end of the story (spoiler alert!) Joseph becomes second in command of the most powerful nation on the planet. Does that mean Joseph should have been all happy and peaceful while in prison singing, "if I'm happy and I know it, clank my handcuffs"? No! Life is painful, and some of the stuff you're experiencing right now might be really, really hard. And that's okay. All I'm saying is this: how would your life change if you thought of it as a story? If God is an amazing storyteller, (and I believe He is), then think about this: If you are between 14-18 years old then you're probably only 1/5 of the way through your story! That means you have yet to see how God is going to use everything happening right now for something awesome that you have no idea even exists yet!! I honestly believe that if you could see the purpose God created you for you'd go "I get to do THAT!?!?!?!?"

So the next time life gets tough, remember these three truths:

- 1) My life is a story.
- 2) This is just the beginning.
- 3) God's a GREAT storyteller, so I'm going to trust Him.

I really believe that if you and me and everyone else could see our lives this way, it would change everything. And just maybe, we would step in to the heroic, amazing story God has written for us. 🌀



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