

Week 3: The Crossover

Changing the Narrative

The Exegesis: Genesis 50:20 & 1 Corinthians 2:7–8

In basketball, a **Crossover** is a ball-handling move used to shake off a defender. It involves a rapid change of direction that makes the opponent think you're going one way, only for you to go the other. It is designed to create an opening where there was once a wall.

1. The "What If" of the Enemy (1 Corinthians 2:7–8)

- *"No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden... None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."*
- This text reveals that the enemy (the "rulers of this age") had a limited scouting report. They thought the Cross was a "slam dunk" for darkness. They believed that by killing the Son, they had ended the "game."
- **The Revelation:** The Cross was the ultimate "Crossover." While the enemy was leaning toward "Death," God was already shifting the momentum toward "Resurrection." The very move meant to destroy Jesus became the move that destroyed the power of sin.

2. The Divine Reversal (Genesis 50:20)

- *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*
- Joseph's life was full of "madness"—betrayal, slavery, and false imprisonment. To the naked eye, Joseph was losing. But notice the "crossover" in the language: "You intended... but God intended."
- **The Insight:** God doesn't just stop the "harm"; He *utilizes* the harm to reach the goal. A sovereign God takes the enemy's best defensive play and turns it into an alley-oop for the believer's breakthrough.

3. Shifting the Momentum

- A crossover doesn't happen when things are easy; it happens when you are being closely guarded. The pressure you feel right now isn't a sign that you're stuck—it's the setup for God to change your direction and give you a clear path to the "basket."

5 Discussion Questions for Comprehension

1. **The Enemy's Miscalculation:** According to 1 Corinthians 2:8, the enemy would never have crucified Jesus if he knew the outcome. How does it feel to know that your current "attack" might actually be the enemy's biggest mistake?
 2. **Recognizing the "Intent":** Joseph said his brothers "intended to harm" him. How do we distinguish between the *intent* of people (or the devil) and the *intent* of God in our difficult seasons?
 3. **The Pivot Point:** In a crossover, there is a moment where the direction changes. Can you identify a moment in your life where a "bad" situation suddenly pivoted into a "blessing"?
 4. **Limited Scouting Reports:** The enemy can see your past and your present, but he cannot see God's "hidden wisdom." Why should this give us confidence when we feel misunderstood or overlooked?
 5. **Focus on the Goal:** In the middle of the madness, Joseph focused on the "saving of many lives" rather than his own suffering. How can shifting our focus to God's bigger "Kingdom play" help us endure the pressure of the moment?
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The Call to Action: "The Counter-Move"

This week, whenever you encounter a setback or a "harmful intent" (a rude comment, a closed door, a bad report), do not react in the flesh. Instead, perform a **Spiritual Counter-Move**:

- **Acknowledge the Intent:** "This was meant to discourage me..."
- **Declare the Crossover:** "...but God is using this to prepare me for my next level."
- **Keep Moving:** Don't stop playing the game. Keep serving, keep praying, and keep trusting the Coach's direction.