

“Learning From Joseph”

Genesis 39

Wednesday Worship July 7, 2021

Introduction: Joseph is one of the most interesting people in the Bible. Remember he was the son of Jacob and Rachel as was Benjamin. Genesis chapters 37 through chapter 50, except chapter 38, are devoted to Joseph. We read about Joseph in:

- Exodus 1:5-6
- Deut. 33:13
- Psalm 80:1
- Psalm 105:17
- Amos 6:6
- John 4:5
- Acts 7:9
- Acts 7:19
- Hebrews 11:22

Joseph was born with a “silver spoon” in his mouth and became a slave (37:28). The Midianite traders (Ishmaelites refers to the same people) owned Joseph for a while, but later the Ishmaelites sold Joseph to a man named Potiphar (39:1).

Text: Genesis 39:1

- Potiphar was an Egyptian.
- A high-ranking officer in Pharaoh’s army.
- A man of class and prestige
- A man of wealth
- A man of perception

When you read the story of Joseph and think about the things that happened to him and how things worked out for him in the end, there are some good lessons to learn.

1. God often uses challenging things to reveal His presence.

- When Joseph was sold to Potiphar, God’s presence became deeply real to Joseph. The Bible says, “The LORD was with Joseph” (39:2).
- When Joseph was unjustly put in prison, God presence became deeply real to Joseph. The Bible says, “But the LORD was with Joseph” (39:21,23).

Illustration: Joseph’s life proves the lesson taught by a sponge: Fill a sponge with water and then add pressure and water comes out. Joseph was so full of God’s presence that when life squeezed him, God oozed out. He became a success (39:2).

- The Bible does not tell us how long Joseph was in prison. Probably 7-9 years.

- The Bible does tell us that after the butler and baker were released that the butler was restored to his job and the baker was hanged (40:20-23).
- The Bible tells us that two years later the butler remembered Joseph (41:1).
- Joseph had asked the butler to remember him and mention him to Pharaoh (40:14).

Application: During challenging times God reveals His presence in a deeper way. Some of you may be going through a challenging time now and experiencing what I am talking about.

2. God often uses challenging things to teach us to depend on Him.

- In Joseph's case, living in a strange land separated from his father, mother, brothers, friends, and familiar surroundings taught Joseph to depend on God.
- In a way, Joseph had to start life over.
- It was not what he had planned, or thought would happen.

Application: If we live long enough, all of us will experience situations we had not planned, or thought would happen that will force us to start a new life.

Illustration: It could be a sudden illness, loss of health, loss of a loved one knowing life will never be the same again, a job change, etc. that forces us to start a new life.

Life Application: When we are forced to start a new life, whatever the reason, God teaches us to depend on Him. Why? Because we no longer have what we had or who we had. It is during these times that we learn the peace that comes from depending on God alone.

3. God uses challenging things to prepare us for what He has planned for us.

- All the things Joseph went through prepared him for what God had for him.
- God used the pit and the prison to prepare Joseph to become the governor of Egypt (41:39-41).

Conclusion: One of the many good things about being a Christian is that when the pressures of life come, and they will, God is always us.

