

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Joseph, Blessed of God – Genesis 39

Context: Joseph, the Slave

²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. ²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes ³⁰ and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?"

... ³⁶ Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

Genesis 38:27-30, 36

His brothers _____ to sell him ...

The Midianites/Ishmaelites beat them to it ...

Joseph ends up in _____ ...

Big questions:

What does it mean to be "blessed" by God?

Can you be "blessed" by God when your life looks to be in tatters?

Blessed in Potiphar's House

39 Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

² The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶ So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Genesis 39:1-6a

"The Lord was with Joseph ..."

He was _____

His presence was _____

He was _____

Side note: Joseph's life could have taken a very different turn ...

(See: 27:42)

Blessed Under Trial

... Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷ And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

¹⁰ And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. ¹¹ But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹² she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. ¹³ And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, ¹⁴ she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. ¹⁵ And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." ¹⁶ Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷ and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. ¹⁸ But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

Genesis 39:6b-18

An excursus on temptation:

The VICTORY over sin starts long before the _____ to sin happens.

Circumstances, pressures, difficulties, losses, depression, etc. _____.

Some conditions where temptations flourish:

Where there is _____

Where there is _____

Where there is _____

Where there is _____

We need _____ of resistance. Notice Joseph's:

Joseph didn't allow her to get in HIS _____.

Joseph didn't give himself _____ to fail.

Sometimes, you can do all the right things and still be caught in a compromising situation.

What do you do then?

Joseph _____ the situation. Often, the best strategy is simply "getting out of the house".

Joseph lost his _____, his _____, and his _____, but he kept his _____!

Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways. (Prov. 28:6)

Remember: we are all just _____ away from destroying our reputations and possibly even our lives. We cannot willfully sin against God and continue to enjoy his presence and his blessing.

We need more than good _____ of resistance, however. We need right _____ of resistance:

The preservation of my _____

The effect of my sin on _____

A right understanding of _____

An _____ of God's presence

A resolute commitment to _____ to King Jesus

Blessed in the Prison House

¹⁹ As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. ²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

Genesis 39:19-23

The situation changed, but God's _____ on Joseph didn't.

What Joseph couldn't know: God was _____ for the grand purpose of his life.

But Joseph was no mere " _____ ", with an invisible God pulling all the strings.

He was a _____ man who honored his true Master. He was also a _____ man who made the right decisions (surely because the Lord was with him), and a _____ man that others could depend on.

Some lessons to apply:

In every situation and circumstance Joseph faced, "the Lord was with Joseph". (2, 3, 21, 23)

He will be with you, also.

Being " _____ " isn't the same as being "happy" or "trouble-free".

What if our definition of "blessed" is all wrong?

What if God's blessing means that God is forever with me ...

_____ me in ways I can't see?

_____ me to handle whatever situation I'm in?

_____ me for the sake of others?

_____ me for what is to come?

God used every event in his life to prepare him for what was coming next. No pain was wasted.

Plus, God was building Joseph's _____ in Him. He'd been in a _____ before, and God was with him. He'd be with him in a _____, too.

And in whatever would come next ...

Next week: Genesis 40-41 – The Rise of Joseph