

Genesis: God and Man

The LORD was with Joseph

Genesis 39

Previously:

- Joseph had two dreams (sheaves of wheat; sun, moon stars)
- Brothers hated him, Jacob (Israel) kept it close to his heart even though he rebuked him
- Special coat
- Plot to kill him as soon as they saw him, Reuben wanted to sneak him back to his dad
- Sold to Ishmaelite traders
- Last week we saw that Judah left to go make himself his own man after this

As we continue to look at Joseph's life - his trials, being forgotten, interpreting dreams and even running the day-to-day affairs of all of Egypt...

Choosing to suffer means that there must be something wrong with you, but choosing God's will— even if it means you will suffer— is something very different. No normal, healthy saint ever chooses suffering; he simply chooses God's will, just as Jesus did, whether it means suffering or not. And no saint should ever dare to interfere with the lesson of suffering being taught in another saint's life.

...

Look at God's incredible waste of His saints, according to the world's judgment. God seems to plant His saints in the most useless places. And then we say, "God intends for me to be here because I am so useful to Him." Yet Jesus never measured His life by how or where He was of the greatest use. God places His saints where they will bring the most glory to Him, and we are totally incapable of judging where that may be.

Utmost 8/10

Common sense is a gift that God gave to our human nature— but common sense is not the gift of His Son. Supernatural sense is the gift of His Son, and we should never put our common sense on the throne. The Son always recognizes and identifies with the Father, but common sense has never yet done so and never will. Our ordinary abilities will never worship God unless they are transformed by the indwelling Son of God. We must make sure that our human flesh is kept in perfect submission to Him, allowing Him to work through it moment by moment. Are we living at such a level of human dependence upon Jesus Christ that His life is being exhibited moment by moment in us?

Utmost 8/9

**What sort of trials have you experienced in life? Or perhaps you're going through?
Does it feel like God is in them?**

What sort of dreams, goals, or visions has God given you? Does it seem like they will never come true?

Moving here, the trail

39:1-6

Joseph taken down to Egypt

17 years old.

Brought down: to sink, prostrated, let down, bring down

He had been exalted out of his brothers by his father, favored
He had been favored by God with dreams of what was to come

I think that God may have allowed him to have those dreams, in some small way, as something to hold on to during the upcoming trials. That without the dreams, perhaps the trials would have been too much.

Desires of your heart

Seemingly in stark contrast to how Joseph would be lifted up to be second in Egypt.
Remember, we have the benefit of seeing this story from the end. He was still living it.

Again, can you imagine?

**It would be 11 more years until chapter 40 when he interprets their dreams.
Two more years until he interprets Pharaoh's dream and lifted out of captivity.**

Potiphar "belonging to the sun"

an officer of Pharaoh, chief of the executioners, and the master to whom Joseph was sold as a slave

Secret service

Chief of the executioners - interesting when we see who Joseph ends up next to in the next chapter and that Joseph is never executed when this guy has full authority to do so

Bought from the Ishmaelites

In roughly 200 years the Ishmaelites have become traders and the family connection is seemingly gone

The LORD was with Joseph

Hebrew is just YHWH Joseph...the words just with each other

In this place where he's far from his family, a slave and not free to go home, doesn't speak the language, doesn't necessarily look like the people around him...God is with him.

Successful man - advance, prosper, make progress, be profitable

Even as a slave, he was prospering. Himself, his master, doing well. Favor.

Col 3:22-24 NKJV - Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Eph 6:5-9 NKJV - Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

He was in the house of Potiphar

He could have ended up anywhere in Egypt. He could have ended up in a working crew, outside, doing slave labor. But instead, he's in the house of a powerful man. A mansion. Indoors, or outdoors, he's around a house. A much nicer gig than perhaps building a pyramid or digging a ditch...and that is already God's favor.

V3 His master saw that the LORD was with him and the LORD prospered him

Just like Jacob under Laban's unfair hand

Your work is a witness. Your life is a witness to those around you and especially those over you

Seeing some kids in youth group, it was obvious God's hand was on them

They weren't necessarily the smartest or the best kids at anything...although they were smart and very talented in different ways...but it was obvious that the things they did prospered.

There was an air, a lightness in and around them.

Joseph served this man and his house. And Potiphar put him over the whole house
(foreshadowing to what Pharaoh would do and a repeat of what his own father did)

God blessed this Egyptian for Joseph's sake

God will bless your employer, or anyone who might seem like your boss in life, for your sake. To bless you and be a witness to them.

Hiring a Christian to do the job should be a blessing, and not

Pro 10:26 NKJV - As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So [is] the lazy [man] to those who send him.

This is true success. God's favor on your life. You can be a slave and in a sense, more prosperous spiritually than even a CEO is monetarily.

Favor at work

In the house and in the field everything here on the homestead. The house, the dwelling, the people in the house, the produce of the field, the food

He left it all in Joseph's hand

He trusted him so much he didn't even need to look over the books or over his shoulder

Joseph was a good steward

1Co 4:1-5 NKJV - Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

1Pe 4:10 NKJV - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

The gifts God gives us, we are to take care of. And part of taking care of them is using them to minister to each other. Not to lift ourselves up, but to lift others up.

:7-10

(v6) handsome in form and appearance.

Goodly person and well favoured

shape, form, outline, figure, appearance

sight, appearance, vision

sight, phenomenon, spectacle, appearance, vision

what is seen

a vision (supernatural)

sight, vision (power of seeing)

There is something very attractive about a Godly person. They don't have to flaunt themselves, even if they are in excellent shape.

But Joseph was all of the above...and that was impossible for this woman to resist.

I don't think this lady was necessarily the most faithful wife to begin with...

I could be wrong...but she's a rich, wordly woman.

Joseph doesn't say he isn't attracted to her.

Perhaps he wasn't, or perhaps even he was and she was beautiful.

His answer is about honor. Not about personal feelings.

His eyes are on his master and upholding what is his master's

This is a young guy, too.

Teachers coming on to young boys, it's probably not hard to get what they want.

He cannot sin against God.

He knows that this is a big thing: 1 adultery, 2 betraying your master

Great wickedness. Sin against God.

Joseph still knows who his real master is.

She didn't give up. When she wanted something, she would get it, no matter what.

:11-18

He went inside and no one else was there...

Be careful about being alone with any woman...especially in this day and age of accusations being taken as fact

1Th 5:22 KJV - Abstain from all appearance of evil.

There are a lot of young people who think it's appropriate to go on unsupervised trips together, be roommates, etc.

1 - what will everyone think. You don't want to make anyone stumble or potentially ruin your witness

2 - you don't think there will be temptation?

Joseph probably noticed something was funny when no one was around

She was trying to get him to do it when no one was looking. To be able to get away with it. But Joseph knew that God was looking.

Conscience is what keeps you from doing wrong when you **can** get away with it.
Current society is all but that

She grabbed him by the garment

Just like his coat of many colors. She caught him by a sign of his authority.

He ran. He wasn't going to fight her. To risk hurting her. Or risk her getting any closer.

She calls the men back in...they didn't hear what happened

She claims he tried to mock Egyptians by raping her

But, why would his garment be there if he tried to get her...wouldn't her garments be ripped or messed up?

Her story doesn't add up

Again, mock - jest, laugh, play, make a toy of

But this time me. To the men servants, to get them against him, says mock them

To get her husband on board, mock "me" - his wife

Very manipulative

But was that not what he was to her? Just some objectified body for her to be pleased with?

:19-23

His anger was aroused. Rightfully so if this were true.

Pro 6:34-35 NKJV - For jealousy [is] a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

Potiphar believes his wife. But I think maybe not completely, or maybe because in his eyes Joseph only tried...and because of the favor on Potiphar's house

He could have killed Joseph. He's the chief executioner. Joseph was a slave. Property.

A special prison for those whom Pharaoh locked up.

Special guard, federal prison. Not your average criminals.
High profile prisoner recently "hanged" under suicide watch. Yeah...

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy

Remember, God is the one who ultimately saw everything. God would exonerate Joseph, in time.

But, this was all the path to Pharaoh. Joseph could not have interpreted these men's dreams and eventually Pharaoh's. Potiphar didn't have that kind of access to Pharaoh.

Joseph now has favor under the prison keeper because of God

This fruit in his life keeps on coming out, god's favor keeps being poured out, whether he's at home with his family, a slave in a foreign country or a prisoner in a high security location.

Joseph, a prisoner, starts running the place

Prisons in US vs other countries

V23 the keeper of the prison didn't look into anything under Joseph's authority

IN PRISON. NO CELL CHECKS. NO RANDOM SEARCHES. The potential for corruption in prison is huge and Joseph is left to his own devices. Talk about trust.

the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

Psa 1:1-3 NKJV - Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

When you are with the Lord and you set out to do something, God will make it prosper.

The Midas touch. It may not be physical gold, but it will be spiritual riches.

Food perhaps to feed those around you that see it. Feed them the goodness of God without them ever opening a Bible.

Favor

Act 4:13 NKJV - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

God doesn't need your natural abilities. As you simply serve him he will magnify himself through you to the point that people will be amazed.

If you were so gifted, talented, prosperous on your own...no one would see god, they would see you.

Let God worry about lifting you up. Let God worry about vindicating you. You focus on serving Him. No matter the trial.

Remember the word, the dreams, the vision, the promises he has given you

Jer 29:11-14 NKJV - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find [Me], when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.