



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Joseph!

Lesson Text: Genesis 37-50

Focus Verse: Genesis 50:20 - But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Truth About Covenant: God empowered Joseph to live faithfully for Him in unfavorable circumstances.

Covenant Context: Jacob's favorite son Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, but God was with him and eventually promoted him to second-in-command in the land of Egypt. Through Joseph's faithfulness, God preserved His covenant He had made with His people.

Living in covenant does not exempt us from tough times, as the story of Joseph illustrates. The sight of the multicolored coat Jacob gifted Joseph made his brothers seethe with envy. Then Joseph had two dreams in which the members of his family bowed down to him. After he shared those dreams with his family, his brothers hated him even more.

For just twenty pieces of silver—the price of a slave—Joseph's brothers committed one of the Bible's most despicable acts of betrayal. Joseph did not spiral into self-pity, nor was he consumed with a desire for revenge—even after such a painful betrayal. God honored Joseph by blessing everything he did. Whether in Potiphar's house or, later, an Egyptian prison, *"the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour"* (Genesis 39:21). Joseph was committed to living with integrity before God, regardless of the consequences.

God used Joseph to preserve this covenant and God's chosen people despite betrayal, lies, sexual temptation, and injustice. God had brought the covenant family back together. And Joseph perfectly, faithfully expressed to his brothers his understanding in God's grand story: *"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive"* (Genesis 50:20).

Like Joseph, we will not understand the full scope of what God is doing in our lives until we reach Heaven. Meanwhile, we must trust that God knows what He is doing and He will ultimately redeem our sufferings for His glory. Like the apostle Paul, we can trust that *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28).

Life's struggles and difficulties, though unwelcome, help us develop the character we need to manage life's blessings. Seventeen-year-old Joseph lacked the wisdom and skill necessary to manage the Egyptian economy while rescuing his family from famine. Thirty-year-old Joseph had spent years proving himself in undesirable circumstances. His character had been tested. He had resisted temptation when it seemed it would have been easier to give in. He had been faithful in small matters. When God needed someone to rescue a family and preserve a nation, He knew He could trust Joseph.

What about us? Are we resisting the character development God is attempting to achieve in us by refusing to submit to seemingly humble circumstances? Do we grumble and complain because life is often more difficult than we imagine it should be? Do we struggle to be faithful in small matters? If so, God will not be able to use us in a greater capacity because we will not have the strength of character we need to withstand the pressures that come with higher levels of service.

Keep standing. Stay faithful. Do not be distracted by life's inevitable detours. Don't be resentful when you're treated unfairly. Do not compromise your obedience to God's Word just because it appears to be the easiest option. The same God who preserved Joseph will preserve you. One day soon you will find yourself standing beside Joseph and many others like him, listening as the Master says, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord"* (Matthew 25:21).

Do not get distracted or discouraged: God has you right where He wants you. He is testing you, shaping you, forming you into the person He wants you to be. When He is finished, you will be *"perfect and entire, wanting nothing"* (James 1:4). And you will be ready to fulfill God's purpose for which He created you.