

- B. God was with Joseph.
 - i. Can you see it?
 - ii. God's "stretches out His loving-kindness" to Joseph (21).
 - a) Joseph isn't angry. Joseph isn't bitter. Joseph is being a blessing to others because of the presence of God.
 - b) Galatians 3:13-14

Injustice + nothing = anger, bitterness, murder
 Injustice + the Lord's presence = favor, and success

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
 The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Do you have a tendency to think you are limited by your circumstances, or do you consider that God's favor can make a difference?
- What was the "ingredient" in the story that kept it from being a story about Joseph's bitterness and retaliation, or even his demise?
- Are the people you work for blessed because you work for them? If you own a business, are your clients blessed because of you? Is your family blessed because of you?
- Do you think that you find yourself coasting on past blessings, or maybe even the grace of God in another person's life (like Potiphar did)? If so, how might you respond to that?
- How does the Joseph story teach us to emulate Joseph? How does it teach us about Christ's work on our behalf?

Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (27)

Whose Hand are You In?

Jerry Cisar — February 18, 2018

Text: Genesis 39

Introduction

- A. God is often present with those in whose lives He appears most absent.
- B. Today's story begins when Judah leaves his family to go get married and the previous story begins
- C. By all human calculations, this "should" be a story about Joseph's bitterness and retaliation, or minimally, his demise.

I. In His Hand (1-6a)

- A. Joseph was taken down to Egypt (1).
 - i. Someone bought him. Potiphar, an Egyptian, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard
 - ii. But the Lord was with Joseph (2).
 - a) What evidence is there that the Lord is with Joseph?
 - b) Joseph was "successful" in all he did.
- B. God's blessing is seen by others (3-4).
 - i. Joseph's brothers had seen God's blessing on Joseph ... and became envious.

- ii. Joseph's Egyptian master apparently has more insight than his brothers!

Your position and circumstance in life is not what limits you. It is the presence or absence of God's favor!

- C. Potiphar Benefits from Joseph's Blessing (5-6a).

- D. How do you respond to injustice toward yourself?

“Anger is an instinctive, automatic response to unfairness. ... All social animals have a built-in sense of fairness. Two dogs will fight when only one gets a bone.... Anger tells us that something is wrong, but it can't tell us how to fix it.” – Susan Rosenthal, *Anger is the Emotion of Injustice*, February 2007, susanrosenthal.com.

II. In Her Hand (6b-18)

- A. Sometimes what appears to be a blessing outwardly can turn out to be a temptation or trap.
- B. The conversation is telling.
 - i. “Lie with me!” Only two words in Hebrew, compared to Joseph's 35.
 - ii. His response stands in stark contrast to Adam's response to Eve, who “gave some to her husband...and he ate it (3:6).

- iii. Joseph lived his life “before the face of God.”

- C. The Perfect Storm (11-15)

- i. She grabbed him by his clothes.
- ii. Her disdain for her husband is evident.

“Look,” she said to them, “my husband brought a Hebrew man to make fools of us. He came to me so he could sleep with me, and I screamed as loud as I could. (39:14 CSB)

- D. Joseph fled!

- i. Paul alludes to Joseph's response when he tells us,
 - a) 1 Cor. 6:18; 10:14
 - b) 1 Tim. 6:10-11
 - c) 2 Tim 2:22
- ii. Joseph's success was in his weakness.

- E. It's your fault; now do something (16-18)!

- i. “That Hebrew slave you brought us...”.
- ii. The lie.

III. In His Hand (19-23)

- A. Potiphar's response.
 - i. Potiphar responded to a specific line in his wife's accusation.
 - ii. We are told he burned with anger, but not *at whom* he burned with anger.