Learning Some Lessons From Joseph

Greg Kline · Genesis 45:4–8

INTRODUCTION

- God promised Abraham three things that he would make of him a great nation.
- But it's that third promise that was ever so important, the promised seed, that through Abraham all families of the earth shall be blessed.

1 God Sent Me Before You

Genesis 45:4–8; Genesis 37:18–28

- I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
- And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on the earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God.
- God was certainly behind in a providential way the life of Joseph. He was sold into slavery by his brothers who wanted to kill him first.
- When life is good, when the money's coming in, the family's all around, God is good, and we're excited. But isn't God good even when we don't see it?

2 The Lord Was With Joseph

Genesis 39:1–20

- The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.
- How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?
- It is his brothers who threw him into the pit. It is Potiphar's wife's false accusation that landed him in prison.
- Judge your life by your willingness to submit to God and take the whole picture in mind. Because God has always been and forever will be.
- We like to take this one tough week we have and say, This isn't right. This isn't fair. When God says, I have a purpose for you.

3 Don't Allow Yourself to Be Discouraged by Others

Romans 8:31–39; Job 1:20–22

- If God is for us, who can be against us?
- This life is not about others. It's about serving God.
- We don't need to doubt or blame God because life is tough or unfair.
- The Lord gave, and the Lord is taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.
- Job is committed to God, not to the things of this life that God may have blessed us with.

4 Why, O Lord, Do You Stand Far Away?

Psalm 10:1; Psalm 13:1–6

- God is still our Lord, but He promises us a spiritual inheritance. It's not about gold or good feelings here and now.
- Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
- Maybe if we were constantly engaged with our God, if we constantly serve God to the highest of our abilities and thanked him when times were going good, we wouldn't think he disappeared when times are going bad.
- But I have trusted in your steadfast love. My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- David, when it came down to it, understood what God truly offers. And that's a chance to be with him for all of eternity.

5 He's Not Hiding: God Is Always There

Romans 1:20; 1 Kings 18:22–39; Jeremiah 17:9

- God should be seen in his creation. It is his creation grand. We can see God. We can know him. He is not hiding.
- But there was no voice. No one answered. No one paid attention. No one answered because it wasn't a real God.
- The truth is, God is there whether we feel his presence or not. God is always there for his people.
- We're not living for now, we're living for eternity.
- The only reason that we would not be close to God is if I moved from him.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **When it comes to obeying God, it's easy to blame Him, but it's hard to take self responsibility for self. Today, choose, just like Joshua did, that as for me and for my house, I, we will serve the Lord.**

MY NOTES