

SERMON OUTLINE Genesis 39

Faithful in Trials by God's Grace | David VanAcker

JOSEPH PROSPERED IN TRIAL BECAUSE THE HAND OF THE LORD WAS UPON HIM (1-6A, 21-23)

1. *The LORD was with Joseph (2).*
2. *God made Joseph successful under the authority of Potiphar (2).*
3. *Potiphar noticed Joseph's success was the result of the LORD being with him (3).*
4. *Potiphar favored Joseph on account of the LORD's blessing and put him in charge (4, 6).*
5. *The LORD blessed and continued to bless Potiphar through Joseph (5).*

JOSEPH FACED SIGNIFICANT TEMPTATION EVEN THOUGH HE WAS FAITHFUL TO GOD (6B-7, 11)

JOSEPH FACED SIGNIFICANT PERSECUTION EVEN THOUGH HE WAS FAITHFUL TO GOD (13-23)

JOSEPH REMAINED FAITHFUL TO GOD EVEN IN HIS TEMPTATION AND PERSECUTION (8-10, 12)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

As we work our way through Genesis 39, we'll see four significant truths: (1) Joseph prospered in trial because the hand of God was upon him, (2) Joseph faced significant temptation even though he was faithful to God, (3) Joseph faced significant persecution even though he was faithful to God, and (4) Joseph remained faithful to God even in his temptation and persecution. Combined, we're given an important reminder of the rightness of walking as God calls us to regardless of our earthly circumstances or consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. How does having Judah's immorality placed right next to Joseph's morality in Genesis make the actions of both clearer? Have you ever experienced anything like that in your own life?
3. Which do you desire more, God or His blessings? Or, is God your goal or the means to your goal? Or, if you could have everything you ever hoped for (health, life, eternal life, money, looks, fame, success, etc.), apart from God, would you take that deal? How does Genesis 39 help you answer these questions?
4. Do you have a category for something like Joseph's situation being objectively and eternally better than if he were safely back home surrounded by a loving family? Does the fact that God was with Joseph in this miserable situation fit within your usual framework for trials? Does the fact that God caused Joseph to succeed *more* under Potiphar's enslavement than he did outside of it make sense to you?
5. Have you ever witnessed someone so blessed by God that even the unbelievers in their life noticed?
6. Have you ever been in a situation so difficult or painful that you wondered if God was able to bring good out of it?
7. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

8. If there are any areas of sexual immorality or temptation in your life, confess them to God and turn from them. Find help from a brother or sister in Christ if you need it.
9. Find a specific way to glorify God by blessing someone through the blessing God has given you.
10. Find a specific way to be a blessing to someone else while you are in a trial this week.
11. Share the good news of Jesus Christ with someone this week.
12. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

13. Adoration. Praise God that nothing can stop Him from blessing His people.
14. Confession. Confess any sexual immorality or area of embraced temptation.
15. Thanksgiving. Thank God for the perfect power of the cross.
16. Supplication. Ask God to make us a church that seeks to bless others even when life is hard. Ask God to help us trust in Him even when He seems distant. Ask God to make us ever more obedient.