

God Meant it For Good: From the Pit to the Palace

Joseph

Genesis 37-50

Question: What do you do when life has not turned out the way you planned?

Key to understanding life as a follower of Christ is to understand that God is Sovereign

*Your view of God will determine your view of life or your view of life will determine your view of God.

Scene I. A hated brother sold as a slave **Genesis 37**

- A. Favored by his dad: The coat of many colors
- B. Hated by his brothers: The dream of being exalted

Scene II. A foreign slave elevated to manager **Genesis 39**

- A. Supported by God: *"The Lord was with Joseph"*
- * Key principle: when life does not turn out as you plan, you are not alone
- B. Promoted by God: *"Joseph found favor in his eyes"*
- C. Blessed by God: *"the Lord blessed the household..."*

Defining moment #1: In the middle of his troubles he applied himself and refused to quit

Scene III. A falsely accused inmate put in charge of the prison **Genesis 40**

- A. "Handsome and well built" meets "forward and devious"
- 1. He resists, runs and is rewarded with prison

Defining moment #2: in the middle of his troubles he ran from temptation

*His choice: Face life with the Lord and have nothing or face life without the Lord and have everything

Scene IV. A dream interpreter rises to the top **Genesis 41-50**

- A. A restored cup bearer and a headless baker
- Defining moment #3: In the middle of his troubles he maintained compassion for others
- B. A Pharaoh's dream of 14 years **Genesis 41:11-16**
- 1. A God inspired plan leads to second in command

C. A radical revelation that brought deliverance **Genesis 45:3-8**

Defining moment #4: In the middle of his troubles he forgave those who meant to harm **Genesis 50:19-20**

Question: What got Joseph through the difficult times?

Answer: He came to understand and embrace that God is in control and He knows what He is doing!

Application Questions:

1. What area of your life has not turned out as you had dreamed?
2. When have you felt like giving up? What kept/keeps you from quitting?
3. What temptations do you face that would detour you from God's best?
4. If you feel like your life is in the pits, who else is might be in the same boat? What can you do to show compassion to them?
5. Who is God asking you to forgive rather than get even?