



Lesson #12: The Big Picture of Joseph's Life (Hebrews 11:22)

The New Testament eulogizes Joseph's macroscopic view of his own life. Joseph recognized, even on his death bed, that God was doing something greater than his own suffering. His induction into the Hall of Faith comes from his belief that God was doing something bigger than just his own individual life.

You can actually take the four patriarchs in Genesis and see how God used certain themes in their lives.

- 1) Abraham – "_____"
- 2) Isaac – "_____"
- 3) Jacob – "_____"
- 4) Joseph – "_____"

As we study Joseph's life it's important that we only only ask "_____ does this passage say?" but also "_____ was this passage written?" Looking at Joseph's life from a birds eye view we see that the original intent for God's people is still the intent for us. God wants to teach you, through the life of Joseph, that he is doing something much grander than just the here and now in front of you. There is a bigger picture to the _____ and _____ of God than first meets the eye.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS SEEN EVEN WHEN _____ FAIL YOU

Throughout Joseph's life we are reminded of human unfaithfulness.

A. Joseph was cruelly _____

His brothers responded to their father's favoritism by _____ Joseph (Gen. 37:4). Adding insult to injury, Joseph had the audacity to share his dreams of dominion with them (Gen. 37:5). The revelation of God's truth is not warmly received! Joseph's life is impacted by cruelty that was inspired by _____ (Acts 7:9).

B. Joseph was cruelly _____

The Midianites carried Joseph down to Egypt (Gen. 37:28) and sold him to an officer of Pharaoh's army (Gen. 39:1). But while serving in Potiphar's house we read Mrs. Potiphar accuse Joseph of assaulting her (Gen. 39:14-15)!

"Some confuse _____ with _____ ... 'Reputation is what men think you are; character is what God knows you are.'" (Theodore Epp, P. 57).

C. Joseph was cruelly _____

Proverbs 13:22 says, "_____ deferred maketh the heart sick" and so it was that Joseph's heart was sickened when the Butler forgot him (Gen. 40:14, 23).

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS SEEN IN THE _____ HE GIVES TO YOU

"You can't break God's promises by leaning on them."

A. God's promises are _____

The life of Joseph is really a techni-color, Old Testament portrait of _____. We know the end of the story but Joseph did not. So what kept him right? Answer: The repeatable promises of God!

B. God's promises are _____

Psalm 105:16-19 is the only place that really tells us that Joseph must have been thinking through all these trials. In Psalm 105 we are told what kept Joseph focused. Verse 19 says that it was "*The _____ of the _____.*" Joseph grabbed ahold of some phrases he had gotten from God and he wouldn't let go. No wonder the Spirit of God would recognize the certainty of Joseph's faith in Hebrews 11. Joseph spoke with great confidence of God's promises even when they were not yet _____.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS SEEN IN HIS _____ WITH YOU

Through the life of Joseph we are being taught that God is just as much with you in your _____ as he is in your _____.

A. God was there to _____ Joseph

As we begin to really get to know Joseph in Genesis 37 it seems like all had fallen apart for him. Yet, if you take a minute to examine the facts, it becomes clear that Joseph was in the hand of divine _____.

B. God was there to _____ Joseph

When Joseph arrived in Egypt he no longer had his coat of many colors, but his character was still intact! We are told in Gen. 29:2 that Joseph was "a _____ man." Gen. 39:3 tells us that "the Lord made all that he did to _____ in his hand." Joseph prospered because God blessed him! God saw that Joseph was a man of character who could be trusted to do His will. God is still looking for men and women like that! Men and women of faith who live with _____ and _____.

Concluding Thoughts

In his book *Eating Problems for Breakfast* Tim Hansel quotes Abraham Maslow as saying, "If the only tool you have is a _____, you tend to see every problem as a _____." Get the right perspective!

Roughly 25% of Genesis is devoted to the life of Joseph (Gen. 37-50). As we look at Joseph's life from a birds eye view we see the perspective that we need to have. God wants to teach you that you can trust His _____ hand.