



Series: Joseph the Harbinger of Jesus

Passage: Genesis 39

Title: Handling Adversity

Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 11/03/2019

Discussion Starter

What are some of the adversities that you have had in your life that you look back on and see the hand of God and the presence of God being with you? Describe how God used this to build your character.

Handling Adversity (Genesis 39)

- Read Genesis 39:1-3. What were some of the difficulties Joseph might have encountered as a seventeen year old Hebrew slave entering the house of Potiphar the captain of the guard to Pharaoh?
- What primary impact did Joseph have on his master Potiphar that we see revealed in these verses? How should this also be the primary impact we as Christians have on others today?
- Read Genesis 39:4-6. What do you see happening as Joseph demonstrates his ability to handle adversity? How long do you think it took for him to be promoted to the overseer of Potiphar's estate and why? What key character trait do we see mentioned about Joseph that enables him to be successful?
- Read Genesis 39:7-9. How did Joseph have such fortitude in this adversity, especially in this physical temptation? What is revealed about his character? Read 1 John 3:1. Discuss the additional insights this verse imparts on how we should deal with adversity.
- What are some of the lessons we can learn on the importance of gratitude and forgiveness? How do we see these virtues on display in Joseph's life? How can you better apply these virtues in your own life? Read Matthew 6:14-15 and Colossians 3:12-17. Discuss how these verses instruct us in gratitude, forgiveness and the virtuous character God is looking for in our lives.
- Read Genesis 39:10-19. What adversity did Joseph face after making his stand against the initial enticements of Potiphar's wife? What did Joseph do when Potiphar's wife grabbed his outer garment? Read 1 Corinthians 6:17-20, 10:13. What are some of the important aspects and instructions we see mentioned in these verses as it applies to dealing with temptations?
- Read Genesis 39:20-23. Why do you think Potiphar put Joseph in prison? What might have been a more appropriate punishment in that day for the crime? In what way did God have mercy on Joseph? This seemed to be more like punishment for good behavior? Why did God allow this to happen? How was He building Joseph?
- How quickly do you think Joseph was able to be entrusted with all of the prisoners and functions in the prison and why? How can this encourage us when we face the adversity of injustice against us? Read Malachi 3:3-4 and Romans 8:25-39. What additional insights do these verse give us on why God allows us to go through trials and tribulations? What is our role in all of this?

