

July 17, 2016

Genesis 39

“Christmas In July”

Joseph and Jesus—Similarities:

- “Favoured” sons (Genesis 37:3; Matthew 3:17)
- Both have “brothers” / family (Genesis 37; Hebrews 2;11- 12)
- Hated by others
- Sent by the Father (Genesis 37:13-14; John 3:16)
- Both are prophet, priest and king
- Both are sold / betrayed for pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28; Matthew 26:15)
- Both go to Egypt
- Falsely accused
- Joseph is almost killed, Jesus is killed
- Both are in anguish and cry out (Genesis 42:12; Hebrews 5:7)

4 (Counter-Intuitive) Principles For Life

1. Temptation Is (Mostly) About God

- Temptation (and all of life) is mostly about God.

“How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9).

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’” (Luke 15:21).

- We are always dealing with God, whether we know it or not.

2. The Godly Suffer

- Christian cliché: “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.”
 - True for Joseph?—Joseph’s downward spiral: hatred, cistern, slavery, temptation, false accusation, prison
- Sometimes, in fact, things get worse before they get better
- Sometimes the most righteous people (Joseph, Job, Daniel, Jesus) suffer the worst (and the most unjustly).

3. Blessing Depends On God’s Presence

“From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, **the Lord blessed** the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The **blessing of the Lord** was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field” (Genesis 39:5-6).

“The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did” (Genesis 39:23).

- Blessing can happen in the high and the lows

4. The Presence Of God Is Always There

- God is always “with us”—in the highs and the lows.

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?” (Psalm 139:7).

“Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)

I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

- God with us both in “Potiphar’s house” and in “prison.”