

Sermon Title: Not Forgotten & Never Forsaken

Sermon Text: Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41

Can you relate with the images/people/emotions portrayed in this video?

Suffering and sorrow are universal experiences! It is why Jesus too had to suffer, in order to be an all-sufficient savior! May's Doctrinal Floor

Often when we are in the midst of suffering & sorrow, we feel alone... isolated... rejected... abandoned... But God never abandons His people! God never forgets His promise! God is always making a way forward for us!

"I don't know how You make a way, but I know You will! You've been good on every promise, from Eden to Zion, through every dead end, and out of that grave. I don't know how You make a way, but I know You will."

The life of Joseph, here in the book of Genesis, is so well known... because people relate to his story, to his suffering, and to his struggle to believe God through it all! It's a story of great faith, in the midst of the hardest of times!

Chapter 37:12-28 – And you thought you had some family drama! Joseph's brothers conspire to kill him, & they throw him in a pit to leave him for dead. Then they eat lunch together amidst Joseph's cries for help!

And if that's not bad enough, they then change their minds about killing him because they could instead make a profit from the sale of his life! So, they pull Joseph out of the pit and sell him as a slave for 20 shekels of silver!

Where is God in this? Where are the fruits of His promise? How can we sing, "I don't know how You make a way, but I know You will...?"

Faith's perspective - Joseph's life was spared! Yes, he was made a slave, but his life was preserved, and he was delivered from his brother's evil plan!

Chapter 39:1-20 – Joseph goes from being a slave, to being the master of the house's right-hand man, to being falsely accused and thrown into prison!

What a rollercoaster ride, from an incredible low, to feeling like God has made all things right again, just to have it all come crumbling down... again!

There is great injustice and evil in this world! And even when we choose to do the right thing, there's no guarantee that we'll escape the effects of sin!

Again... *Where is God in this? Where are the fruits of His promise? How can we sing, "I don't know how You make a way, but I know You will...?"*

Faith's perspective – God took a slave & blessed him, & made all he did prosper! He will do it again in prison! God was always with/for Joseph!

Genesis 39:21-23 – None of us would choose slavery, or imprisonment, but God was/is at work even in the midst of such horrible circumstances!

Chapter 40 – Joseph finally sees an opportunity to get out of prison! He rightly interprets the dreams of these two officers of Pharaoh in hopes that the one would remember him when he gets out, but Joseph is forgotten!

Have you ever gotten your hopes up, just to see them come crashing down? That was Joseph's experience! It is often our experience in this world as well.

Where is God in this? Where are the fruits of His promise? How can we sing, "I don't know how You make a way, but I know You will...?"

Genesis 41:1 – God was orchestrating things, in His own time, in His own way!

Faith's Perspective – God's timing is perfect! God's plan is never thwarted! We may feel abandoned, alone, forgotten, rejected... but God is at work!

Chapter 41:9-16, 39-46 – Joseph was 17 years old when his brothers sold him into slavery. Now 13 years later, after all the struggles & sorrows, God delivers him & makes him 2nd to only Pharaoh over the entire kingdom of Egypt! Joseph would have never imagined this... but it was God's plan!

Joseph's story... God's story for Joseph's life, was not over (more on that next week), but it is clearly seen through these events in his life – that God is present, that God is at work, that God is sovereign, and we can trust Him!

What might seem like a chain of continuous unfortunate events... where all our human eyes can see is suffering, injustice, indifference, abandonment... When God seems distant, unloving, incompetent... Remember Joseph's story

Choose faith's perspective, and ask God to give you eyes to see, ears to hear, a mind of understanding, and a heart that is open to/trusting of God's plan!

And when you find yourself saying, *"I don't know how You make a way"*, know that He will! Not just b/c of Joseph's story, but b/c of Jesus - THE WAY!

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