

## Sermon Follow-up | September 29, 2019

### *The Torah — Joseph's Story*

**Focus Passage:** Genesis 37:1-36

**Additional Context:** Genesis 37:1-45:8

**Other Passages Referenced:** Gen. 37:24, 28, 29; Gen. 39:2, 3, 20, 21–23, 40:3, 15, 41:14; 45:5–8; 50:18–20

**Corollary Scripture** – Hebrews 11:22

**Sermon Recap:** We recall from Genesis 15 that the LORD God made an unconditional and unilateral covenant with Abraham. In that covenant, the LORD promised to intervene in the raging human rebellion to redeem a people for Himself. This people would come through Abraham's family and they would bless the whole world. In Genesis, we see moments when things looked and would have been hopeless without God's intervention: Hagar/Ishmael, Abraham and Sarah's deception of King Abimelech, God's instructing Abraham to sacrifice Isaac—the long-awaited son God promised and gave to Abraham and Sarah. God begins to make clearer the lineage through which redemption would come when He chooses Isaac's younger son Jacob to father the nation of Israel instead of the older, Esau. How do we see God intervening to bring redemption? ... "Mysteriously," doing things neither we, nor the people He was working through, could have ever guessed ahead of time. When does God's intervention bring redemption? ... "Meanwhile." God demonstrates that He is often carrying out His redemptive work meanwhile we go through our ups and downs of life without seeing it happening. We need to see better and keep walking with God to find where He is ultimately leading.

Once again, the three stories we read this week as part of the Fall Chapel-wide Study do not catch us up to the central passage of the sermon. We'll actually be taking the next two weeks in our reading plan to cover the story of Joseph in more detail. Next week's sermon will be a little ahead of us as it covers the Hebrew peoples' exodus from Egypt.

### **Connect:** *Making Honest Connections with the Sermon*

*What is a challenge you are facing? ... anything resembling a pit or a prison?*

*How was your experience with **living by** God's word this past week?*

*How were you able **to let others know** about what God's word says this past week?*

### **Grow:** *Listening to and Learning from God's Word*

#### **Notable Sermon Quotes**

- "In the mysterious work of God, pits can lead to palaces."
- "Joseph is a man who just keeps walking—Genesis 37:2, sold at 17 years old. Genesis 41:46, enters pharaoh's palace at 30, add in the 7 years of plenty, the time it took for his family to run out of bread during the years of want and that he does not reveal himself to his brothers until their second trip to Egypt—Joseph is likely at least 42 years old when God's purpose behind the pit becomes clear—23 years to move from being thrown into a pit by his brothers so he might die to partnership with his brothers so his family might live."

**READ:** The *Focal Passage* and *Other Passages Referenced* listed above.

1. Were there any parts of the passages that you found hard to understand?
2. Can you give a synopsis of the Joseph story in your own words?
3. Did you see human rebellion or idolatry in any of the passages?
4. Did you see God's judgment of rebellion in any of the passages?
5. Did you see God's love and grace in any of the passages?
6. Can you see how any of the passages relate to other passages you have studied?
7. Do you see any ways in which any of the passages have connections to Jesus in the New Testament?
8. Are there any promises in the passages we need to remember and trust?
9. Are there any commands in the passages we need to obey?

***Serve: Serving King Jesus and Others By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word***

1. Philippians 1:6 states, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." In this week's stories and sermon, we see that God keeps His promises, but He doesn't seem to be in a hurry. Abram was already 75 when the Lord promised him descendants, but he did not become father of Isaac until he was 100—25 years later. When Jacob went to his relatives to find a wife in Paddan-Aran, he ended up staying there 14 years before he returned to the land of Canaan that God had promised him. In the story of Joseph, we see him spending years in prison before God raised him to great influence and then more years of influence adding up to 23 total years from the time he was thrown into the pit until God fulfilled the dream He had given Joseph. Can you relate to their experiences of waiting for God to intervene?
2. What do you believe God's Spirit is saying to you specifically about living by His word we have been listening to and learning from? — "With the Holy Spirit's help, I will \_\_\_\_\_ to live out God's word in the coming week."
3. Who can you let know something you're learning from God's word in the coming week? — "With the Holy Spirit's help, I will let \_\_\_\_\_ know what I am hearing and learning from God's word."

**Further Resources**

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of [www.wcchapel.org](http://www.wcchapel.org)
- The Cutting Room Floor — [www.wcchapel.org/thecuttingroomfloor](http://www.wcchapel.org/thecuttingroomfloor)