Joseph, When Dreams Turn to Doubt

Bubba Garner · Genesis 39:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- What was written before was written for not our entertainment, but our learning that we, through perseverance and encouragement of the scriptures, might have hope.
- The only character that's given more space in Genesis is Abraham, the father of the faithful.
- Who here has felt all of these things and more and responded the way Joseph did? Whose faith has taken hit after hit after hit, but still clung faithfully to a God who is working all things together for good.

1 You Don't Have to Be a Slave to Your Circumstances

Genesis 39:1–2; Hebrews 12:15

- We learn from Joseph, our favorite character, that you don't have to be a slave to your circumstances.
- And the Lord was with Joseph. So he became a successful man.
- Just because some door had closed did not mean the rest of his life shut down.
- The Hebrew writer says in Hebrews 12 and verse 15, he warns of the root of bitterness. Because that's what bitterness does. It grows and it takes hold and it takes over.
- You don't have to be a slave to selfishness, but rather look for ways to be of service to other people.
- When the Lord is with you can still be successful. You can still be someone who's important, who matters.

2 When Mistreated, You Still Have to Do the Right Thing

Genesis 39:9

- When you've been mistreated, when someone has done you horribly wrong, you still have to do the right thing.
- Did you notice in our text it said day after day she was after him?
- How then, verse 9, could I do this great evil and sin against God?
- He knew that committing fornication was not going to bring his family back. Committing sexual sin was not going to make all of his problems go away.
- How will our troubles get any better by getting further away from God?
- These are times when we ought to be seeking in more and drawing closer, not pushing them away.

3 Trust Him That He Sees the Bigger Picture

Genesis 39:21–23; Romans 8:28

- The roadmap you have for your life might not be the same one that God has. And so we've got to trust him that he sees the bigger picture.
- It didn't matter where Joseph was. Whether he was in Canaan or in Potiphar's house or in jail, the Lord was with him.
- We ought to thank God for things that don't happen. Things that we beg him for, that he says, wait.
- And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.
- His plans may not meet with our purposes. But we must, like Joseph, have confidence in his time and not in ours.
- By faith, Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

THE CHALLENGE

How will you respond the next time you encounter various trials? The next time your faith is tested. The next time you're tempted to just throw in the towel and give up. How will you respond? Will it be like Joseph?

MY NOTES