



**Joseph ... Seeing God's
Hand in Difficult Times ...
Is God Enough for You?**

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

June 21, 2020

Truth for Life

For the week of June 21, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you ... But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. – Genesis 45:4-8

His words point to an enormous irony. The very thing used against him (their betrayal) results in his exaltation so that he can now save the brothers who betrayed him. Joseph had a great BIG God! His words are either the words of a madman or a man of faith. His vision of God was so great that it dwarfed the sin of his brothers.

God and Joseph's Advancement – Gen. 45

I. How God deals with those who Do Evil

- a. He allows them to _____ what is in their Hearts
- b. He Permits Satan to Instigate them _____
- c. He Withdraws His _____
- d. He Uses Them to _____

II. How Knowing this Helps our Faith

- a. We Know that Our Troubles did not _____
- b. We Can See Good when others can only _____
- c. We have a _____ those who Hurt Us
- d. We have a new Admiration for _____ in all things.

Some Reflection ...

- I. As a Follower of Christ, How _____ in this World?
- II. How Happy will you be in the _____?

1. This week we observed the tension that exists between the evil acts that we encounter and the Sovereignty of God that overshadows all things, even the evil acts that come our way. Have you experienced times when hardships came your way, but after a while, you saw how God ultimately worked things out? If so, what happened? How did God come through? Have you ever used your experience to help someone else?
2. Job found himself in a brutal situation that made no sense. His friends tried to figure it out and they got it all wrong too. Read Job 38, 42:1-7 & 10. How can (or should) this passage impact our perspective when we find ourselves dealing with questions about God's sovereignty and our circumstances?
3. Sometimes we need to seek wise counsel, especially when we are in times of great pressure or high anxiety. One of the reasons to do so is to make sure we're not falling victim to our personal blind spots. What do the following verses have to say about avoiding this trap or ignoring wise counsel?
Psalm 139:23-24 Proverbs 9:9 Proverbs 14:15 Ecclesiastes 7:16
4. No one wants to lose their influence or leadership. Yet ironically, as we saw this week, influence and leadership are not about the power and authority we have, as much as the service, love, and dependability we give. How do the following verses speak to this issue? And how might they impact your current relationships?
Mark 10:43-45 John 13:12-15 Romans 15:1-3
5. As you think back, have there been times in life when you have been in difficult times ... from the hands of others ... and possibly you still hold grudges or wish them ill because of what they did to you? Today, would you consider releasing them from the wrong they did to you? Would you ask God to help you do what seems impossible? If so, what steps will you take to ensure this step is not fleeting?

Memory Verse

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. – Genesis 50:20



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God and Joseph's Advancement – Gen. 45

I. How God deals with those who Do Evil

- He allows them to **Act Out** what is in their Hearts
- He Permits Satan to Instigate them **To Do Evil**
- He Withdraws His **Sustaining Grace**
- He Uses Them to **Accomplish His Purposes**

II. How Knowing this Helps our Faith

- We Know that Our Troubles did not **Happen by Accident**.
- We Can See Good when others can only **See Evil**
- We have a **Reason to Forgive** those who Hurt Us
- We have a new Admiration for **God's Wisdom** in all things.

Some Reflection ...

- As a Follower of Christ, How **Happy are You** in this World?
- How Happy will you be in the **World To Come?**

- This week we observed the tension that exists between the evil acts that we encounter and the Sovereignty of God that overshadows all things, even the evil acts that come our way. Have you experienced times when hardships came your way, but after a while, you saw how God ultimately worked things out? If so, what happened? How did God come through? Have you ever used your experience to help someone else?
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