

The Evidence of God's Favor

Genesis 39 - 40

June 29, 2022

Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, by his master and his wife, and by the cupbearer who also forgot him and left him to languish in prison for two more years! In total, Joseph was a slave and in prison for 13 years. 13 out of 30 years Joseph was a slave and prisoner and believed to be dead by his father.

Would anyone today classify Joseph as a man who was living a successful life? Would anyone classify Joseph as a man blessed by God?

Evidences of God's favor in Chapter 39:

Three Insights:

1. The Mark of Success is Not Earthly Prosperity But God's Presence

Exodus 33:1-3 - God was going to give them the Promised Land but not go with them. He was going to give them earthly success without His presence.

Exodus 33:15-16 - If your presence doesn't go into the Promised Land, then I don't want to go. The evidence of God's favor was not earthly blessings but rather His presence.

Ephesians 1:15-19 - Paul's continual prayer was not for material blessing but for the blessing that they would fully know God.

2. Faith Means Believing God Even When I Don't See

Proverbs 3:5-6

Jeremy Pierre - Faith means believing what God says about himself so that I value him as worthy of my deepest commitment.

So there's two aspects to this: 1. Believing what God says about himself 2. In light of that valuing him as worthy of my deepest commitment.

What is Faith and How Do We Use It?

Hebrews 11:1

Vv. 2-3

V. 4 - Abel

V. 7 - Noah

V. 8 - Abraham

V. 13 - *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

Vv. 23-28 - Moses

Vv. 32-40 - The others

3. Sometimes God's Blessings Hurt, But They Point Us to Something Greater

For Joseph, his suffering would eventually lead to better days ahead.

And, ultimately, this story pointed to Jesus. But Joseph had to suffer first.

Psalm 119:11

Hebrews 11:39-40

1 Peter 5:10 - *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*