

THE ORIGINAL JOE

PART 1: INTRODUCING THE ORIGINAL JOE

Sermon Notes

Text: Genesis 37:1-4

Introduction:

History and Context

- The story of Joseph is about how God transitions Abraham's descendants into Egypt to fulfill his promise to make them into a nation (see Genesis 15:13-16).
- Joseph is the youngest son of Jacob's favourite wife, Rachel. As a result, he is favoured above his other brothers.

The Story of all of us

- The story of Joseph is the story of all of us, because our life circumstances can be used by God to prepare us for his greater purposes.

Romans 8:28

2 Questions we need to ask ourselves:

1. Will we trust that God is with us even when it feels like he isn't?

Genesis 39:2, 23 "The Lord was with Joseph"

Faith is the delivery system of God's promises

2. Will we trust that God may have a greater purpose than we realize?

Genesis 50:19-21

Romans 8:28

Without faith that our "all things" will work out for good, they won't

God doesn't cause our pain, but he gives purpose to our pain.

Conclusion:

The story of Joseph is also the story of Jesus:

The Father sent the beloved son to check on his brothers. The brothers rejected him and hating him and conspired to kill him, and put him in the ground. They believed he was dead, yet, behold, he appeared alive to them in glory, and holding the keys of life that would save them. Instead of condemning them for their sin, he used his power to save them.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Did you grow up with siblings? What were they like? Was their a “golden child” in the family?
2. Who is your favourite Bible character? Why? Where does Joseph rank in your list of favourites?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Genesis 15:1-20. This is the promise God gave to Abraham about taking possession of the land of Canaan. How did the story of Joseph help fulfill this promise?
2. Read Romans 8:18-32. In the sermon we only look at 8:28. What do you notice about the rest of this passage? Can you think of other Bible stories where God used someone’s tragedy to accomplish a great purpose? Do you have a hard time believing he can do that for you? How can our circumstances be used to develop character and maturity in us?
3. How would your attitude and behaviour change if you were always truly conscious of the fact that God is with you?

Application:

1. How will you remind yourself this week that God is with you?
2. Take time this week to look back on your life and look for clues about how God used your circumstances to accomplish his purposes in you.

Prayer:

1. Pray for an awareness of God’s presence, and faith to believe he is always working on your behalf.
2. Other requests
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