**The Life of Joseph: When Life Loses Its Colour**

**My Dream Has Become a Nightmare – Now What? – Part 1**

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**Sermon Description**

When your dream becomes a nightmare, you have a decision to make. You can either become a victim or you can overcome. If you are going to reach your destiny, you will have to move beyond life’s adversities. Be rest assured that God has a plan for your life.

**Main Passage**

**Psalm 105:16-22**

16 Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. 17 He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. 18 They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

19 Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him. 20 The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. 21 He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions, 22 To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.

**Joseph Sold by His Brothers**

**Genesis 37:12-30**

**12**Then his brothers went to feed their father’s flock in Shechem. **13**And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers feeding *the flock* in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” So he said to him, “Here I am.” **14**Then he said to him, “Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me.” So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. **15**Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, “What are you seeking?” **16**So he said, “I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding *their flocks.*”**17**And the man said, “They have departed from here, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’ ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

**18**Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. **19**Then they said to one another, “Look, this [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1103b)]dreamer is coming! **20**Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!” **21**But Reuben heard *it,* and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, “Let us not kill him.” **22**And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit which *is* in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him”—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

**23**So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph *of* his tunic, the tunic of *many* colors that *was* on him. **24**Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit *was* empty; *there was* no water in it. **25**And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry *them* down to Egypt. **26**So Judah said to his brothers, “What profit *is there* if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?

**27**Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh.” And his brothers listened. **28**Then Midianite traders passed by; so *the brothers* pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *shekels* of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

**29**Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph *was* not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. **30**And he returned to his brothers and said, “The lad *is* no *more;* and I, where shall I go?”

**Central Truth**

1. How to defeat a victim mentality
2. How to overcome adversity despite the odds.

**Main Thoughts**

The life of Joseph started with a dream and ended with destiny. But midway through his life, the dream

seemed to have become a nightmare. Not only was he sold by his brothers, but he was also accused of rape, and then forgotten in a prison for many years. It looked like his God-given dreams were all over, but God has the final say.

**Dreams**

* God’s dream in you will never die until it comes to pass
* “Live the dream” – your dreams need to be lived out – there is no use just talking about “someday”
* If they are God dreams, they will be bigger than you
* They will outlive you
* *The future always belongs to those that are willing to dream.*

**How To Overcome a Victim Mentality**

1. **Forget About It**

This is not just a matter of trying to forget something or suppressing negative thoughts. God literally has a grace that helps us forget and move forward and get past things that are otherwise obstacles in our life. Joseph’s first son was a sign of the incredible work the Lord had done in his life.

* Joseph experienced firsthand the grace of God helping him forget the pain of his past
* Joseph could not complete his assignment bound by agony and emotional turmoil
* Joseph was able to progress and move forward despite the things that occurred in his life.

**Genesis 41:50-51**

50 And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

1. **Be Fruitful in The Now**

The tension between **letting go and taking control – this means that we require wisdom and discernment. Some things we need to let go of while other things we need to take control of.**

* Joseph had to take some control in his life; for example, when he was in Potiphar’s house, in the prison, and ultimately in Egypt
* He also had to let go of some things, things that were out of his control, these are the things that we must trust God for.

**Genesis 41:52-53**

52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." 53 Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,

1. **A Resilient Spirit**

Life at its best is unfair, difficult, and sometimes even cruel. As God’s children, you must have the ability to bounce back. The Bible refers to this as being long suffering, steadfast and immovable. God has given us the spirit of the overcomer. Consider:

* “God is writing His story in you” ~Bishop Tony Miller
* Focus on God’s dream in your life
* *Withstand, recoil, recover from difficult conditions* 
  + The ability to bounce back
  + The ability to overcome
* Do you have a winner’s mindset or a whiner’s mindset?
  + In the Old Testament, the children of Israel were notorious for complaining - this irritated God
  + Display the attitude of gratitude at all times.

1. **All Things Work Together**

**Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

God is always at work behind the scenes in our life. What people may mean for evil will not override God’s good plan for you. Joseph faced many unfair circumstances, but he prevailed because God favoured him.

* God always has the final word
* **Direction – correction – perfection – The Lord is always working to guide and mature – He leads in the path of life for His name’s sake.** 
  + **Direction** - God is leading us and guiding us in all things
  + **Correction** - God is putting us on the right path and disciplining us when we are wrong
  + **Perfection** - God is working on us and maturing our character.

**Group Questions & Discussion**

1. List five things you believe about God-given dreams.
2. What is spiritual forgetfulness?
3. Describe five ways that God was working behind the scenes in Joseph’s life.
4. How does Romans 8:28 work in real life?
5. Why is a resilient spirit so critical to a successful life?
6. What is meant by a victim mentality?
7. How were Joseph’s sons a sign of the work that God had done in his life?