Genesis Chapter 39 Verses 1 – 2a

* What? **Did you just hear that!** *“The Lord was with Joseph!”* Are you ***kidding*** me! Consider what that sounds like from the outside looking in…I mean you *church professionals* know this historical account, you’ve read this multiple times, and it just is ok for you but consider what *we* know. Joseph has been **abandoned** by his brothers…**sold** by them as an act of mercy because really **they wanted to kill him!** He has been ***unfairly*** and ***with cruelt***y separated from his father who loves him…he has been taken to a place far from his home as a slave, a prisoner, with no rights…He has been offered for sale…stripped of all humanity and now he has been purchased by a pagan captain…Potiphar literally means, *“Devoted to the sun!”* (I do wonder if Potiphar had a nice tan, though!)
* He’s in a horrible circumstance! Forsaken and forced to a place he doesn’t want to go and a position he doesn’t want to fill! How, in the midst of all of that ***bad luck, ill circumstance, straight up tragedy***…how on earth is it that it could be that *the Lord was with him?* See how crazy that sounds now? Here’s the deal. Just because you find yourself right now in a bad place doesn’t mean that God has abandoned you. ***God sees the end from the beginning…***
* Joseph, because he was forsaken by his brothers, separated from his father, stripped of all of his rights, dignity and humanity…**because** he was sold like a piece of machinery as a slave…he will ultimately be mightily used by God and in the end he will become the savior of his nation and a hero of the faith! **Yes** God was with Joseph but God wasn’t with him for only this day, ***God was with him for the whole ordeal!***
* We will see Joseph continually honor God, trust the Lord, never complain…even though his situation gets ***bad, better, worse***…on and on…up and down…and ***through that trust, God works a plan much greater than Joseph himself***…and the same goes for me and the same goes for you…if you do not fall prey to your *sensual self sympathy* and believe God…***If you want God to be with you…THEN BE GODLY!*** You love her when she is cold to you…you respect him when he is an idiot towards you…you forgive quickly and choose love and service when offended…not so God can strike their heart with a spiritual lightning bolt that moment but because your ultimate desire is God’s will and plan for your marriage, for your career, for your ministry…for your family…
* But and and…the flesh is so very strong. Truly a formidable opponent…you **must** train, you must pray, you must walk in the spirit, you must feast upon the Word of God…lest you get ripped off…which Joseph ***ultimately*** does not even though it seems, it appears right now…that he is…

Genesis Chapter 39 Verses 2 – 6a

* Joseph is blessed by the Lord greatly not because Joseph was God’s favorite. God loves Joseph and Potiphar ***equally***…so there’s no favoritism going on here. So what is going on? Joseph is greatly blessed by the Lord **because Joseph blesses God.** It’s a simple as that. James 4:8, *“Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you.”* John 14:15, *“If you love Me, keep My commands,”* and later in that chapter, verse 23 Jesus said, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”* It’s a simple principal. ***Joseph is not God’s favorite…God is Joseph’s favorite***…and because of that, he is greatly blessed!
* And I LOVE what is said here in verse 6. Potiphar so trusts Joseph (because those that love God are entirely trust worthy) he so trusts him that he doesn’t even know what he has anymore! Folks ask me ***details*** of something in our Children’s’ Ministry or Missions or Infrastructure and many times I don’t have a clue the answer. Some people frown on that but the fact is…***I trust Auburn!*** I **completely** trust James! I **whole-heartedly** trust Scott! They run those ministries! And I *adore* it that way!! ***God is with them!!***

Genesis Chapter 39 Verses 6 – 7

* Check this out…3 words. 3 words can ***bring down the entire will of God*** in Joseph’s life. “Lie with me.” ***3 words…two paths.*** Will Joseph love God more than sin? Here’s the **same** question. *Will God’s will for Joseph be realized?* That my friends, is the same question. And we know, from the outside looking in, that God’s will is for the nation family of Joseph to be *forgiven, humbled, and saved*…the brothers forgiven, the nation humbled and the women and children to be saved from starvation…but these 3 words…can bring down the entire will of God in Joseph’s life.
* Same for you…here are your three words. The same three words that have plagued mankind since the Garden of Eden…, ***“Has God said…?”*** The devil mocked God and confused and deceived with these three words and boy that still happens today…Why do so many get picked off…and ***nation families*** starve and disappear or never come about…**because you’re watering down the Word of God**…three words, two paths possible…***pathetic or path-blessed!***

Genesis Chapter 39 Verses 8 – 9

* There’s the key! There’s the power to prevail against sin. ***Joseph loves the Lord.*** *(No New Testament! No Daily Devos! No Christian accountability!! No indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit!!)* He realizes all he has is from the Lord. Not by Potiphar. Not by some sort of good fortune. *Every good and perfect gift comes from God* (James 1:17)…and so when temptation comes…he doesn’t consider sinning against himself or this woman or Potiphar or his office…***his consideration is that he cannot betray the God whom he loves.***

Genesis Chapter 39 Verses 10 – 11

* The enemy is persistent and notice the ***loop hole*** that he exploits…Joseph in this scene has ***zero accountability.*** And in the end he does nothing wrong but he will be accused and that accusation will hold. One practical rule of marriage and ministry that I encourage you to heed is to *never be alone with a member of the opposite sex that is not your spouse.* If a repair man is coming to the house, I will work from home…if I arrive at church and its only Lindsey here, I will wait outside for someone else to arrive…not because in either circumstance there is any ***intention*** or even ***temptation***…but **there is opportunity** and that’s going to be enough for this scene…

Genesis Chapter 39 Verses 12 – 23

* Joseph is thrown into prison *unfairly, wrongly, tragically*…but God causes him to proper even in the prison…I wonder would you trust God wherever you are tonight…here’s the prevailing theme of this entire chapter…***God is with him…and God is blessing him..and walking in those two things, he is successful.*** 13 times in 23 verses we read that *the Lord was with him, the Lord blessed him and the Lord made him to prosper.* Exactly what God desires to do and will do for and through you if you would **trust God over your circumstance.**
* We get to see the end from the beginning with Joseph and what a tragedy if Joseph had lost heart and turned from God…yet there are many tragedies walking among the church…maybe even a few current tragedies here tonight…heed me in this…trust God and draw near to Him…even if you’ve been thrown into a prison of a life even if its all been completely unfair and not your fault or doing…trust Him right there in the prison…***serve the Lord and draw near to Him***…choose to be Godly…set out to be Godly…and God will draw near to you. Even in the prison **you will be success** and ultimately, just like Joseph, you will be realeased…