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**SG020118**

## **The Whole Counsel of God – Genesis 37,39**

Got questions? Email Pastor Jason at [jasonduff7@gmail.com](mailto:jasonduff7@gmail.com)

(You can download this message as a podcast by searching Jason Duff on I-Tunes)

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### **Introduction & Overview of the Section**

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#### **Introduction**

Tonight we are going to begin our study in the Life of Joseph. 2 chapters were dedicated to the creation of the world, three chapters dealt with the flood, but 13 chapters are dedicated to this man Joseph. I believe this is because in all Joseph goes through, not only is he a picture of how we are to suffer well, but he is also a picture of Christ.

#### **The Life of Joseph – part one – Genesis 37, 39**

##### **#1 – The Prologue – Genesis 37:1-11**

In these first few verses of Genesis 37 we learn why Joseph's brothers despise him so. Their hatred will set the scene for not only the rest of Joseph's life, but the rest of the history of the nation of Israel as well.

##### **#2 – The Pit – Genesis 37:12-36**

Instead of killing Joseph, his brothers throw him into a pit. Then they come up with an even better plan to sell him into slavery. Joseph may have thought that this pit would be the low moment of his life, but it was really a foreshadowing of the tough lessons God would have to walk him through for the next 13 years of his life.

##### **#3 – The House of Potiphar – Genesis 39**

The trials and tribulations of Joseph continue in the house of Potiphar. The Lord is with him and because of that, Joseph finds favor in the eyes of Potiphar, who entrusts everything into his care. But Joseph has to make a difficult choice to stand for purity when Potiphar's wife wants to be with him physically.

#### **Key Issues or Words**

**“Bad report” (37:2)** – Although we love to think of Joseph as sinless, we know that practically he was not, for we all have sinned. (Romans 3:23) One of the only indications in the text however of Joseph's fallen nature is found in Genesis 37:2 where we are told that Joseph brought back a “bad report” concerning his brothers. The word that Moses chooses to use is an interesting one. The Hebrew word, “dibba” translated “report” always speaks of a bad or an untrue report. Not that what Joseph reported to his dad was a lie, but the indication of the text is things were probably exaggerated in order to cast Joseph in a more favorable light.

#### **By the way...**

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##### **Genesis 37:17 – “Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan...**

This city of Dothan would later enter Bible history again when Elijah would move the region. It was in Dothan that Elijah and his servant were surrounded by the Syrian army. Elijah's servant was worried until Elijah prayed that God would open his eyes, so he could see that greater was He that was with them, than he that was in the world. (2 Kings 6:13)

#### **Homework 4 Next Week – Read Genesis 40-44**

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W020117 – 01/23/13

## Genesis 37,39

### “The Life of Joseph – part one”

#### Introduction

- Tonight we are going to continue our study in the foundational book of the Old Testament and really all of the Bible
  - Remember the content is not hard to remember, because the title says it all

#### The word Genesis means “beginnings”

- And truly so many things in Scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
  - The universe
  - Life in general
  - Man, marriage
  - Sin and evil
  - Language, government, nations
  - Specifically we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact understanding that this book means and is about beginnings really is a good way to divide up our look at this book as you can see in your book intro sheet

#### Outline for the Book of Genesis

##### Chapters 1-11 – The Beginning of all nations

- Chapters 1-2 – The Creation
- Chapter 3 - 5 – The Fall
- Chapter 6-9 – The Flood
- Chapters 10-11 – The Tables of Nations

##### Chapters 12-50 – The Beginning of the Jewish nation

- Chapters 12-23 – Abraham
- Chapters 24-27 – Isaac
- Chapters 28-36 – Jacob
- Chapters 37-50 – Joseph

#### Tonight we are going to begin our study of the life of Joseph

- As we get to this last section detailing how Joseph and his 11 brothers get to Egypt, and become the Hebrew nation that Moses will deliver, there are really three amazing levels

#### Three amazing levels to The Life of Joseph

##### #1 - The story of history

- as I just said, it tells the dramatic story of how the Jews end up in Egypt, and it is interesting

##### #2 – The story of God’s providential hand

- the whole time it is so easy to see God working behind the scenes, making this happen

##### #3 - The picture of Jesus

- Joseph and the things that happen to him in these chapters are such a picture of Jesus
  - in fact there are more than 300 pictures in the text – we will not dwell on all of them, but I encourage you to scan over it – see Jesus

**It is interesting to me that in the book of Genesis 2 chapters deal with creation, 3 chapters deal with the flood, 2 chapters deal with the division of all the world's nations**

- yet God inspires 13 chapters to be dedicated to the Life of Joseph
  - why???? – why not the things that we are so interested in – creation, flood evidence, the world breakup
- I challenge you that it is because Joseph is a picture of Christ and it is Him that God wants you and me to be captivated with more than anything else

**On the Mount of Transfiguration, you remember Peter, James and John and there with Jesus and they see Him transfigured with Moses and Elijah**

- And good ole Peter – he says, “It is good for us to be here, let’s make 3 booths, one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah”
  - And God speaks from heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son, hear Him!!!”
  - It is not about Moses, it’s not about Elijah, it’s about Jesus

**Anyway, tonight we are going to see the first three parts of the Life of Joseph – For those of you taking notes, those three points are all brought to you by the letter “P”..., as they would say on Sesame street where all good Pastors learned to preach...**

**Genesis 37 and 39**

**#1 -The Prologue – Genesis 37:1-11**

**#2 - The Pit – Genesis 37:12-36**

**#3 – The House of Potiphar – Genesis 39**

- Let’s consider those one at a time

**Genesis 37 and 39**

**#1 - The Prologue – Genesis 37:1-11**

- we see in these verses the circumstances that set the whole scene in motion
  - really there are a couple of factors at work here

**Joseph is favored by his father**

- It came about from the fact that Joseph’s mother, Rachel was Jacob’s favorite wife – it was her he wanted to marry in the first place
  - You remember when Jacob divides up his family when Esau was coming
- He put the maid servants and their kids in front
  - Then Leah and her kids - And finally Rachel and young Joseph in the back with him
- In Jacob’s family there was no doubt where you stood

**And this favoritism comes out again as Jacob gives his son a coat, a coat your Bible calls, “a coat of many colors”**

- Now as I have shared with you before, as a great Bible scholar, I have worked hard to uncover some ancient photos of what we are reading about
  - Only here – at Calvary Chapel Vista on Wednesday Nights have I been able to show you

**The Baby picture of Esau**

**A wedding photo of Esau**

- **And of course this was a problem for Jacob because he looked like this...**

**A picture of Jacob right before he went in to steal the blessing – you know he is about to be blessed, because he is wearing his cross**

- And now we have uncovered a picture of Joseph in his coat of many colors, never seen before so prepare yourself
  - **Picture of the Coat of many colors**
- As you can see Joseph is dressed there in a purple, a color of royalty, and the coat, wonderful mink with a wide variety of colors
  - I know Joseph bears a strong resemblance to Snoop Dog, but that is just a coincidence

**Okay – so that is not a picture of Joseph in his coat of many colors**

- in fact, Joseph's coat may not have been colorful at all - your margin might note, that a more accurate translation would be "long sleeved"

**If you understand the culture of those days, those who were placed in position of authority were given coats with long sleeves, or big sleeves**

- They did it so they could keep documents and other important information on them, much like today's briefcase

**In contrast the workers would wear a sleeveless coat to give them more mobility while working in the field**

- So you see what Jacob does by giving this coat to Joseph is he elevates him above his older brothers
  - And this creates even more anger in his brothers toward Joseph

**Now – a word on that to you who are parents or will be parents some day, before we move on**

- Jacob shows favoritism to one of his children over the others
  - And the result is pain, for all involved

**And I mention this because it is the natural tendency of man, to not only be partial, but even in an attempt to honor godly characteristics in one child, to elevate those things to the other children**

- This was certainly true in the family I grew up in, not in a bad way or sinful way – but I had excellent grades, I was the scholarship athlete, the Bible college graduate, and now the ordained minister
  - And not that my Mom did much to encourage it, I know it was hard, is hard for my sister
  - She still gives my mom a bad time saying, 'well when you get to heaven you and Mary will have much to discuss, you know both raising perfect boys and all...
    - Of course she knew better, being my sister

**But I bring this up because situation exist like this in every family, and there is a godly way to handle it as a parent**

- and it is not to do as Jacob did and elevate one child above the others
  - or to use one child as the constant example to the others, "why can't you be like your..."

**The way to handle it is the way God handles his children**

- Consider Hebrews 11
  - Hebrews 11 has been called the hall of faith, and truly these were great men of God
- However if you read it carefully you will notice, Hebrews 11 doesn't tell the whole story

## **It doesn't tell about how Abraham messed things up because of his lack of faith**

- It doesn't mention Moses not wanting to speak to Pharaoh
  - Or Jacob leaving Shechem
  - Or anything about Samson or David

## **Now while things were happening, God was certainly correcting His kids, certainly allowing them to experience consequences**

- as we should as parents
  - But what I see here in Hebrews 11, is God also looks for the good that his kids do, looks for the highlights of their lives and majors on them
- And so too as parents – of course it is part of our job to correct what needs to be corrected, don't misunderstand me
  - But another part is to discover the highlights and lift them up – especially if you have multiply kids
  - Because each one of our kids are gifted by God in different ways and excel at different things

## **And part of the wonder of being a parent is discovering and encouraging those things in each of our child or people we are involved with**

- Jacob did not – He favored one of his sons, and by it caused grief in them all
  - Of course things don't get any better with our second factor and that is

## **#2 – The Prophetic Vision from God**

- Joseph sees two visions that are really one, a prophetic picture of what will see in our next study in the book of Genesis – where Joseph's brothers will eventually bow down before him
  - Jacob sees 12 sheaves, 11 of their sheaves bowing down to his sheave
  - The brothers are not happy

## **And if that wasn't bad enough, then Joseph has another dream where the sun and the moon and the 11 stars bowed down to him – and chooses to tell them – I know nothing is said bad of Joseph in the Scripture, but he is a little arrogant – I know it takes one to know one – but it is true here**

- and when you hear Joseph explain the dream, not only do the brothers loose their mind again, but Dad does as well, because now Joseph is saying, Dad, you are going to bow to me too

## **Now make special note of this, because you will see this picture of the Sun and the Moon and the 12 stars as a picture of the Nation of Israel as a picture of Israel in the Scriptures**

- we are going cover I think, unless the Lord does something different and that means in a couple of weeks when we get to Revelation, well it may take a little longer
  - but you will see this in Revelation chapter 12
  - Revelation chapter 12 talks about The sun and the moon and the 12 stars – and some people try to make that the church
- But no where in the Scripture do we see the church given this picture
  - However here in Genesis chapter 37 we are told that this is a picture of Israel

## **Well, Dad is not happy with the dream, the boys loose their mind and that brings us to the second part of our study**

### **Genesis 37 and 39**

## #1 - The Prologue – Genesis 37:1-11

### #2 -The Pit – Genesis 37:12-36

- Joseph's brothers are watching their dad's flocks just north of Shechem
  - Now why are they there????
  - Because Dad had been there, Dad had spent time living in Shechem – and even though now he is doing well – the boys were effected
- It reminds me of what happened to Lot earlier in this book
  - How Abraham – also left Bethel and headed for Egypt

### **And God called him out, and he repented, and was fine in the end..**

- But his nephew Lot, well when given a choice of where he wanted to go when he and Abraham divided – He choose the plains of Sodom – why – they reminded him of Egypt
  - Abraham got Lot out of Egypt but he could not get Egypt out of Lot
  - And the same thing is happening here with Jacob's sons
- They are back in Shechem and Joseph is sent to them
  - And they want to kill him
  - Ruben tries to intercede for his brother, hoping to come back later and set him free
  - But before Ruben had the chance, the other brothers decide – hey we can make money off our brother, let's sell him into slavery

### **To cover themselves, they rip apart Joseph's robe, cover it in goat's blood and let their father make his own conclusions**

- It is ironic I need to point out that the brothers deceive their Dad by killing a goat
  - The same way Jacob deceived his father into believing he was Esau
  - It is funny how sin, when not dealt with comes around to you again
  - It is sad when it is the form of your kids –
- does anyone else not want to be a parent – God help us to lead by His Spirit – so much is at stake!!!

### **Things are bad for Joe**

- things unfortunately will get worse
  - skip over chapter 38, we dealt with that last week, it shows the lineage of Jesus Christ, Jesus had some dysfunctional forefathers just like you and I – but we skip to chapter 39...

## **Genesis 37 and 39**

### #1 - The Prologue – Genesis 37:1-11

### #2 -The Pit – Genesis 37:12-36

### #3 - The House of Potiphar – Genesis 39

- God was with Joseph – that is the summation of his life – God was with Him
  - But that was not any promise to get out of problem
  - In fact so often with God there is going to be trials and tribulation
- No matter if you are a Christian or not, you are going to experience trials
  - The difference is with the Lord God is going to work these things out for His glory

**“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.” – Romans 8:28**

**The book of James makes the point that the same circumstances in our lives, God wants to use as a trial to make us more like Christ**

- and the same set of circumstances Satan wants to use as a temptation to tear you away from God
  - so chapter 39 is a great lesson on how to run from the temptations of the enemy
- There are many ways to flee temptation

I read in world magazine about the rejection hotline - they will give you a fake number to give out, and a recording does the letting down for you. Thousands of calls have poured into centers all across the United State

- That is certainly one way
  - But we see a biblical way in our text today

**Joseph a godly man, a man God was with, a man who worked honorable and was a blessing to all who were around him was about to face some serious temptation**

- And a word on that – sometimes there is a misunderstand that those who live for the Lord, or those who are pure and godly do not face serious temptation
  - But friends, lest we be fooled into that type of thinking, realize that because you are tempted has nothing to do with your spirituality
- In fact the reality is the closer you are to the Lord the more intense temptation will be
  - Consider this quote by CS Lewis

“A silly idea is the one that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German Army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives into temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it is like after an hour. That is why evil people, in one sense, know very little about evil. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. And Christ because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means, what it is, and how to defeat it.” – CS Lewis

- Those who desire to live for the Lord and stand for His word and principals will be attacked by the enemy because he wants to knock you down

**Joseph was tempted, because he was godly, because Satan wanted to throw him off track, but there was another reason as well**

- Joseph, verse 6, was handsome in form and appearance
  - Friends, understand what the word is sharing with us
  - Joseph was incredibly good looking
- The Hebrew translates – well built and attractive
  - There are only 2 people in the Bible given this distinction
  - Joseph and his mother Rachel (from where he obviously gets it)

**And so because he is godly and Satan wants to rip him off, and because he is amazingly good looking (for the same reason Mike Payne and I have to deal with temptation)– Joseph has to deal with temptation**

- But Joseph is going to have victory
  - And in that is an important lesson for us
- You see the Bible has many examples of men and women
  - Many of them fall, and we can learn from their mistakes - But Joseph does not fall, he passes with flying colors
- And so it is worth our time to discover why

- How and why was the victory won

## **How to overcome temptation?**

### **#1 – Do not Rationalize – Verses 6-8**

- If there was anyone who could have rationalized his sin it was Joseph
  - Consider his circumstances...

**#1 – He is young (about 18 years old) – the hormones are raging – it's natural to be this way**

**#2 – He is undergone such trial – rejected by his brothers, sold into slavery – he deserves a break, God owes him some indulgence in the flesh**

**#3 – Many scholars suggest that it was even more tempting and easy to rationalize than that**

- it is interesting to note who Potiphar was
  - the Bible says - “captain of the guard”
  - in charge of the body guards or the secret service for the Pharaoh
- But it also says he was an officer of Pharaoh
  - Now the word officer means and is usually translated Eunuch
- Men who were in close service to Pharaoh would allow themselves to be made eunuchs or they would no longer be able to have kids
  - They did this so that Pharaoh could trust them with his many wives and concubines, plus it took away the possibility for them to take over and raise up a new line of Pharaohs

**Now this requirement of all of Pharaoh's officers would take on great significance with Potiphar being married.**

- We don't know if he was married first and did this to gain advancement, or whether this woman just married him for political significance

**But the significant thing is,** although adultery was punished by death in Egypt. Under these circumstances it was quietly accepted and almost expected.

**So you understand that the rationalization could have been in full force**

- Joseph could have been throwing himself a pity party, I deserve a break, God doesn't love me anyway
  - But Joseph would not throw a pity party
  - He would not rationalize

**And friends we need to learn from this**

- Because the enemy works in our lives in very similar ways
  - We go through trial, we go through hard times
- And if we give into the flesh and begin to focus on self, throw ourselves a little pity party
  - We will be easy prey for the enemy

**He can get us to rationalize almost any activity**

- growing up we had early versions of video games, Atari, original Nintendo – but then that was it, I grew up. But then years later I became a youth pastor and these kids would say – come over and play – video games, for kids – pac man, pole position – oh no – college football – hugh???
- I go over and there is a game where you can coach your favorite college football team – you can put yourself on the team, and a new self – 6 foot 5, ripped, handsome in form and appearance
  - I must have this toy - \$300 dollars, time consuming



- Enter rationalization – it is for the kids – homefellowship at my house – has a DVD player, we don't have one of those yet – I'll only play one game a week, like real football
  - Yeah right – kids used it 3 or 4 times, and currently the things set in my closet because it started to consume my time and life
  - But oh how I could rationalize before, and you can too

**Dangerous when it comes the area of sin – our minds can justify anything, we can feel sorry and justified no matter what is happening in our lives**

- we need to learn from Joseph, who did not rationalize, but he saw the reality, he opened his eyes and saw the truth – why could he, #2...

**How to overcome temptation?**

**#1 – Do not Rationalize – Verses 6-8**

**#2 – Have a right view of God and Sin – Verse 9**

- We need to see this, it is so important
  - He says, “How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God”
- You see Joseph understood the issue
  - That is wasn't just about him and Potiphar or his wife
  - It was a matter mainly between him and the Lord

**And this was how he was able to avoid rationalizing about the sin**

- Listen – purity is not a line, it is a direction
  - So often we make up lines of what is pure and holy and what is not
  - But as we make those lines – the enemy gets us to rationalize and move those lines back further and further until we are at a point of total sin, yet we have convinced ourselves, “I have not crossed the line, I am pure”

**We need to begin to realize that purity is not a line we make up but a direction we take our lives**

- that is why when I counsel, when someone calls with a problem – more often than not I know I need to take them to the core of the issue – how are they doing with the Lord, personally

**You see there may be many side issues – in the marriage, at school, in the workplace, with the kids**

- but more often than not – those things are tied directly in to how they are doing in their relationship with the Lord

**So often we want to know, how to be free from this, how to walk holy in that area of your life**

- but so often our flesh wants a 3 step program, some chart to fill out that will lead to success

**But so often friends, understand this**

- the problem, the solution is not to focus more on your shortcomings, and sins
  - but to focus totally upon the Lord as we saw on Sunday
  - To see how close you can get to the Lord
  - See how well you can get to know His Word
- And I have seen time and time again – the issues go away
  - Not because the temptation stops
  - Not because the enemy ceases to be a battle for your heart and mine
- But because you are right with the Lord – and the things of the flesh no longer have the grip they once did

## **This is not just my opinion – it is scriptural**

- Galatians 5:16 – you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh if you...
  - Get in touch with your feelings
  - Figure out what reject issues you face that cause you to behave sinful
- Don't misunderstand – I'm not trying to make fun of so many things we hear and believe, I am just pointing out that is not what the word says

The Bible says, “**Walk in the Spirit** and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh” – sounds like a promise

**It is about walking in the Spirit, and I know we have talked about this before – Romans 5:8 – says how we walk in the Spirit, “Those who set their minds on the things of the flesh, walk in the flesh, those who set their minds on the things of the Spirit, walk in the Spirit” – Romans 5:8**

- setting your mind on the things of the Spirit
  - getting close to the Lord, His Word, His Presence – every day – as a lifestyle
  - I can stress enough the importance

**Not rationalizing about sin, instead focusing on being right with God, building a foundation that will number 3...**

### **How to overcome temptation?**

**#1 – Do not Rationalize – Verses 6-8**

**#2 – Have a right view of God and Sin – Verse 9**

**#3 - Resist Temptation – Verse 10**

- as you allow God to build the foundation in your life, then you will be able to do what Joseph does next
  - he continually resists the temptation

**You see the reality is, the temptation wasn't over after one little rejected request from Potiphar's wife**

- now, she was determined, and so she pressed on and on
  - and what I love about Joseph's example is not only does he resist time and time again, but he is not even willing to make little compromises and that is key
- in verse 10 it says, “he did not heed her to lie with her, or to be with her”
  - that is not two ways to say the same thing
- One means – well you know
  - The other – means to just be around, be along side

**I see in this that the temptation changed, was offered in different ways – “Okay, I understand, you don't want to violate your relationship with the Lord, but how about you just sit here next to me, for a minute..”**

- Potiphar's wife is dirty – she is like an unsaved teenage boy trying to pull the yawn move, let's just cuddle – dirty...
  - But Joseph won't have anything to do with it
  - Friends, let us learn

### **Trials will come**

- And the Word of God makes promises to you and me

**James 4:7, “submit to God (see the pattern), resist the devil and he will flee from you”**

**We are called to resist the devil, and promised that when we do he will flee**

- But understand he will not flee forever

- When Jesus was tempted and resisted and had victory, it says that the devil left him, until a more opportune time
- The temptation didn't end

**And so with you and me – we will be tempted, and as we don't rationalize, but focus on our relationship with the Lord, and resist temptation – the enemy will flee**

- But then he will return, and so we must resist, and resist, and resist again
  - And learning from Joseph we understand the enemy will come with different methods and strategies, and little compromises
- But understand those little temptations, those seemingly innocent compromises are leading you, softening you up for great sin
  - Joseph continually resisted, and see how all these things are tied together, that enable him to run when the moment of truth arrived

**How to overcome temptation?**

**#1 – Do not Rationalize – Verses 6-8**

**#2 – Have a right view of God and Sin – Verse 9**

**#3 - Resist Temptation – Verse 10**

**#4 – Run from sin – verse 11-12**

- The final thing I want us to consider, to take a look at is what Joseph does when faced with not just temptation, but open, available sin
  - He runs – right on, Joseph

**This is right – this is what you and I need to and must do - It is what Paul exhorted Timothy to do, in II Timothy 2:22, “Flee youthful lusts,....(but pursue righteousness**

- We are to run from youthful lusts, and by the way this does not mean only when we are youths
- It means from those things that are so common to the folly of youth

**What is going on with all these old CEOs of major corporations cheating on their wives – the're old**

- But that is just it
  - Temptation is not just something we face when we are young
  - It is something we face when we are old, young and in the middle
- But no matter our age – we must run
  - So often sadly – we do the opposite – we are quick to run into sin, not away from it

**And God makes clear in Proverbs 6:18 how He feels about feet that run to sin**

- He hates it
  - He doesn't hate you – don't confuse it
  - He hates that we run to sin
- Because He hates what it produces in our lives

**When will we mature?**

- we have a Father in heaven that loves us, wants to bless us with wonderful things
  - and wants to keep us from that which will only bring pain and hurt - Especially sexual sin

**Paul writes to the Corinthians, those struggling big time with sin, “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who**

**commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." – I Cor 6:18-19**

- Flee, run from sin, you are not your own, you have been bought with a price, for a purpose..to glorify God
  - By – Not rationalizing, focus on being right with God, resisting temptation, running from sin
- Well I wish I could tell you things go better for Joseph but that is just not the truth
  - He goes to the house of Potiphar (chapter 39), becomes a slave, stand for God
  - And ends up in prison
- It doesn't make sense – But God is at work
  - I'm sure Joseph thought I don't understand it, I don't see what is happening
- But the reality was, God was still working the most absolute good in Joseph's life
  - You see God wanted to raise Joseph up to save the Hebrew and Egyptian people
    - But He had to get him to Egypt
    - He had to get him to Potiphar's house, so that he could be thrown in prison
- He needed to be thrown in prison to meet a butler who had the ear of Pharaoh so that years later, God could bring Joseph to the place He needed him to be
  - Amazing - we could never plan that

**Do you know – God works that way in your life as well**

- no way – I see no evidence of that – do you think Joseph did – no way

**God is at work, let Him work, trust in His goodness**

- mature is the believer, who when you encounter something you do not understand, you fall back on what you do
  - God, you love me
  - So somehow this has to be wrapped up in that nature – help me to trust in You