

Joseph: Living with Integrity

Genesis 39

Looking Back

When life falls apart, you don't have to. Through challenging events, Joseph maintained his trust in God and kept himself together because of God's blessing on his life (even during hardship) and one essential character trait: integrity. Let's explore these aspects of life together...

Thinking It Through

agree|disagree, consider|contemplate

Great impressions can be made from a distance, but reality can only be tested up close. ~ Howard Hendricks

God's hidden and decisive power which works in and through but also against human forms of power. A 'soft' word for that reality is providence. A harder word for the same reality is predestination. Either way—providence or predestination—the theme is that God is working out his purpose through and in spite of Egypt, through and in spite of Joseph and his brothers. ~ Walter Brueggemann

Divine sovereignty operates in the blessing of one's life, but there are facets of human responsibility that need to be discharged in order to keep oneself in the blessing of God (see Jude 21 for instance). ~ Abraham Kuruvilla

Working It Out

1. Ask God to open your eyes to understand his truth and to open your heart to being changed by his Spirit, then read Genesis chapter 39.
2. Compare verses 1-6a with verses 20-23.
 - a. How do these verses mirror one another?
 - b. What words, phrases, and ideas are repeated?
 - c. What is the significance of these parallel truths bracketing the chapter?
3. What was the result of God's presence in Joseph's life for Joseph and for other people (v. 1-6a and v. 20-23)?
 - a. What is your emotional and intellectual response to the reality that God's presence, blessing, and plan for your life includes significant suffering and pain?
 - b. How have you experienced this reality?
4. Which quality do you need to focus the most on right now to build a life of integrity...
B—base my decisions on my values.

U—unite my private reality and public image.

I—increase confidence in God's providence.

L—leave temptation behind.

D—destroy deception and manipulation.

What action step will you take to grow in this area this week?
