



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

Concealed to Revealed: Joseph: A Journey of Faith and Redemption

OPENING & PRAYER:

Today, we explored the incredible story of Joseph, a man whose life is a profound type and shadow of Jesus. Joseph's journey, from being the favored son of Jacob to being betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and ultimately elevated to a position of great authority in Egypt, is not just a dramatic narrative—it's a tapestry woven with prophetic parallels to Christ Himself. Joseph's coat of many colors, his dreams, his rejection by his own family, and his eventual exaltation all point us to the greater story of redemption that God is telling through Jesus.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. Continue to guide me as we piece together Your Word throughout the Bible. Bring clarity and understanding as we move through Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. **Genesis 37:2**

Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. **Genesis 37:3-4**

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." **Genesis 37:5-7**

And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." **Genesis 37:8-9**

So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind. **Genesis 37:10-11**

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. **Genesis 39:1-2**

And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. **Genesis 39:3-4**

So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had

in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.
Genesis 39:5-6

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. **Genesis 39:6**

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. **Genesis 39:7-8**

There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. **Genesis 39:9-10**

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.
Genesis 39:21-23

But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon." **Genesis 40:14-15**

Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth. Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food." **Genesis 42:6-7**

So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!" **Genesis 42:8-9**

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. **Zechariah 12:10**

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. **Genesis 50:20-21**

GO DEEPER:

Joseph's life teaches us that God's hand is at work even in the darkest moments. Though Joseph was thrown into a pit and later into prison, the Lord was with him at every step. The favor of God was not dependent on Joseph's circumstances but on God's unchanging faithfulness. Even when Joseph was stripped of his outward sign of favor—the coat—he carried the assurance of God's blessing within him. This inner conviction allowed him to walk in integrity, resist temptation, and serve faithfully, regardless of where he found himself.

We also see that God's purposes are not thwarted by human evil. Joseph's brothers meant to harm him, but God used their actions to bring about the salvation of many. In the same way, the cross—intended as an instrument of shame and defeat—became the means by which God brought salvation to the world through Jesus. Joseph's forgiveness and kindness toward his brothers, even after all they had done, mirror the heart of Christ, who offers grace and restoration to those who once rejected Him.

The story challenges us to trust God's timing and sovereignty. Joseph's dreams were delayed, but not denied. God was orchestrating events behind the scenes, preparing Joseph for a destiny far greater than he could have imagined. When the time was right, Joseph was lifted from the pit to the palace in a single day, demonstrating that God's promotion comes in His perfect timing.

Finally, Joseph's story reminds us to guard our hearts, to be wise with whom we share our dreams, and to remember that prosperity is not about our location but about the condition of our hearts. If God is with us, that is all we need—whether we are in the pit, the prison, or the palace.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. The Parallels Between Joseph and Jesus: Joseph's life is filled with prophetic parallels to Jesus—both were beloved sons, rejected by their own, sold for the price of a slave, falsely accused, and ultimately exalted. These connections are not accidental but reveal the intricate design of God's redemptive plan, showing us that the Old Testament continually points forward to Christ. **[13:55]**

2. God's Presence Transcends Circumstances: Joseph's success and favor were not tied to his environment but to the presence of God with him. Whether in a pit, a slave's house, or a prison, Joseph prospered because he carried the assurance of God's faithfulness within. This challenges us to cultivate an inner conviction of God's presence, knowing that external circumstances cannot rob us of His blessing. **[18:43]**

3. Integrity in the Face of Temptation and Injustice: Joseph's refusal to sin against God, even when falsely accused and tempted, highlights the power of integrity. He did not allow bitterness or victimhood to define him but chose to honor God regardless of the cost. True character is revealed not in comfort, but in adversity, and God honors those who walk uprightly before Him. **[25:24]**

4. God's Sovereignty Over Evil: What others intend for harm, God can and does use for good. Joseph's journey shows that even the most painful betrayals and injustices can become the very means by which God brings about His purposes. This truth invites us to trust God's sovereignty, especially when we cannot see the full picture, believing that He is always working for our ultimate good. **[38:24]**

5. The Power of Forgiveness and Restoration: Joseph's response to his brothers—choosing to forgive, bless, and comfort them—reflects the heart of Christ. True greatness is not found in revenge or vindication, but in extending grace to those who have wronged us. This kind of forgiveness not only heals relationships but also positions us to be agents of God's blessing to others. **[38:24]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. What were the main reasons Joseph's brothers hated him, and how did their feelings lead to his being sold into slavery? (**Genesis 37:3–8; [05:37]**)
2. When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, what was his attitude toward them, and what did he say about God's role in his story? (**Genesis 45:4–8; Genesis 50:20; [38:24]**)
3. Joseph chose to forgive his brothers and bless them, even after all they had done. What does this reveal about the nature of true forgiveness and the heart of God? (**[38:24]**)
4. Joseph resisted temptation and chose integrity, even when no one was watching and it cost him dearly. Is there an area in your life where you are being tempted to compromise your integrity? What would it look like to honor God in that situation this week? (**[25:24]**)
5. The sermon challenges us to trust God's timing, even when our dreams seem delayed. Is there a dream or desire in your life that feels "on hold" right now? How can you trust God's sovereignty and timing in that area? (**[35:00]**)

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There may be questions, but when we lean on You, those questions seem small and insignificant. Thank you for guiding us through this world and guiding us to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."