

The Belonging: A Study in Genesis 37-50
Lesson 1 – Joseph: An Emerging Leader
Genesis 37

Warren Wiersbe writes, “Genesis 37-50 is much more than a piece of dramatic literature, for when you penetrate deeper, you discover a story abounding with profound theological implications. The hand of God is evident in every scene, ruling and overruling the decisions people make, and in the end, God builds a hero, saves a family, and creates a nation that will bring blessing to the whole world. Behind this story is the heart of the covenant-making God, who always keeps His promises” (*Be Authentic*, p. 91).

I. Joseph: A Faithful Son Among the Unfaithful

A. The bad report

II. Favoritism

A. The ornamented robe
B. Jealousy and hatred

III. Dreams

A. The Sheaves
B. The Sun, Moon, and Stars

IV. The Plot Against Joseph

A. The mob mentality
B. Reuben steps up
C. Judah concocts a scheme

V. Joseph: A Type of Christ

Joseph is one of the only people written about in Scripture of which there is nothing bad written. He was not perfect, but he was faithful.

Warren Wiersbe goes on to say, “Joseph is like Jesus in that he was beloved by his father and obedient to his will; hated and rejected by his own brethren and sold as a slave; falsely accused and unjustly punished; finally elevated from the place of suffering to a powerful throne, thus saving his people from death. The major difference, of course, is that Joseph was only reported to be dead, while Jesus Christ did give His life on the cross and was raised from the dead in order to save us” (*Be Authentic*, p. 92).

Joseph

Hated
Betrayed
Stripped
Sold
Arrested
Assumed Dead
Imprisoned
Exalted Position
Fed the World
Fed and Clothed His Brothers

Jesus

John 15:18-20
Mark 14:18-20
Matthew 27:28
Matthew 26:14-16
John 18:12
Luke 23:46
Matthew 27:1-2
Matthew 26:64
John 6:35
Matthew 6:33; Revelation 3:5; 19:7-10

VI. Transformation

“At times God allows the hard thing, so that He can bring about the better thing.”

As we study the life of Joseph, we will work our way through themes in his life that we see repeated throughout Scripture. These transformational themes are included in Day 5 each week.

God allowed difficulties to strengthen Joseph’s character so that when he was put in a position of great power and prestige, the position did not destroy him.

- Christine Caine – “Until the light of Jesus within you is brighter than the spotlight, the spotlight will kill you.”
- Lies of the current culture – (*The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas are Setting up a Generation for Failure* by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt)
- The Untruth of Fragility: What doesn’t kill you will make you weaker. God allows difficulties to strengthen us and prepare us for greater usefulness in His Kingdom.
- “Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child” (*The Coddling of the American Mind*, p. 263).