

“Triumphing Through Trials”

Genesis 37-50

Sermon Series: “Trials”

Introduction: Romans 15:4 says, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” This is referring to the Old Testament. Joseph is a character in the Old Testament who certainly serves as an example and gives us hope in regard to facing our trials. In fact, he is a great example of how we can *triumph through our trials*. He went through an amazing series of trials, but the Lord used those trials to bring about a lot of good. Joseph experienced jealousy and hatred from his brothers, his brothers throwing him into a pit and selling him into slavery in Egypt, being separated from his father, being falsely accused and unjustly imprisoned, someone not keeping his word and him having to stay in prison even longer, and all the difficult emotions that all of this would certainly have resulted in.

The very beginning of this story reveals that God had a plan for Joseph that He never deviated from. He truly took Joseph from the pit to the palace. God used the trials to bring Joseph to the place appointed for him as well as using the trials to prepare Joseph for what was planned for him. So, what can we learn from Joseph’s example that will enable us to triumph through our trials? I want to share four convictions from this story that the Lord wants us to have and four actions that He wants us to take.

Main Idea: God is working through trials in order to fulfill His plan for our lives.

Convictions

1. Trials seem like an obstacle but are really often a vehicle that God uses to fulfill His plan for our lives. The whole story shows us this truth. Joseph’s trials seemed like they were ruining his life. They were certainly terrible things to go through. However, they were not really ruining his life but were really vehicles God was

using to bring Joseph into God’s plan for his life. This is true for us as well.

2. God is in control of what happens to us, even during the midst of trials (45:5-7). God is sovereign, which means that He rules over all and nothing happens that He does not cause or allow to happen. He was silently guiding every step of this process that was going on in Joseph’s life, and He is controlling and guiding our lives as well.

3. God has not abandoned us and is with us in the midst of our trials (39:1-5).

A. His presence

B. His favor

The Lord will never leave or forsake His children (Hebrews 13:5). We often feel like God has abandoned us during trials, but His presence and favor is always with His children.

4. God always has a good purpose for our trials (50:20).

Romans 8:28 says, “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.”

Actions

1. Always do our best (39:1-5, 40:1-7). We have a tendency to use trials as an excuse to slack off, but our faithfulness during trials may determine how much God blesses and uses us.

2. Maintain our integrity (39:6-13). Once again, trials give us an excuse to take shortcuts. We tend to use them as a justification, but God wants us to maintain our integrity no matter what is going on.

3. Wait on God in faith (41:16). Waiting is often the hardest part of trials, but God wants us to keep trusting Him.

4. Forgive those who wrong us (50:19-21).