

The Lord Who Shapes Us for His Purpose

Genesis 39:1-23

¹ Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

² The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. ⁵ From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. ⁶ So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

¹¹ One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹² She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

¹³ When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, ¹⁴ she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. ¹⁵ When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

¹⁶ She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. ¹⁷ Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. ¹⁸ But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

¹⁹ When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. ²⁰ Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. ²³ The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

1. If we were to draw a chart to capture the ups and downs of Joseph's life it will be a chart with high peaks and deep valleys. Life seems that way to us and we struggle to make sense of it.
2. The Scriptures tells us that this world is fallen, and no one is untouched by the evil of sin. We suffer not only because of our own failings but also for the sins of others.

3. The only point of hope and consistency in life is the Lord. He is there in the peaks and the valleys. He loves us in spite of our failings. The things done against us with an evil intent, He makes good.
4. No earthly reward and success can undo the damage evil does to us. Only God can heal and preserve us. Only God can make us whole.
5. Joseph experienced God's faithfulness in his life. God kept him from sinking into despair, anger and vindictiveness. He was shaped by God's faithfulness and became a faithful and trusted leader.
6. What really matters to God is who we are and if we stay close to Him, we will be more like Him. In His presence we will thrive. We can gain the whole world; but without Him we are lost.
7. Only God can fulfil the dreams and visions He has given us. He must first help us understand what this journey is all about. It is about Him and His goodness.
(We are not the hero in this story, He is!)

Prayer Points

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing in trust Being aware of God's goodness Learning what really matters Our story of Salvation God will make a way <p><u>Church</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God will use us as His witnesses wherever we are to shine for His glory As we wait before Him, God will anoint us with His Spirit and give us fresh vision and direction for our lives Pray for wisdom in planning our return to physical service Ministries : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Explorers Redeeming Roses Lifeline Sunday School Worship Team Life Seed Pray for the salvation of our loved ones 	<p><u>Covid19</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front liners Protection and wisdom for leaders and people as more sectors are being opened with SOPs being eased Teens (being vaccinated) & children (school re-opening) Mental health Healing for those who have been affected with Covid-19 Comfort to people who have lost their family or loved ones due to Covid <p><u>Healing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex and Santhana <p><u>Malaysia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salvation to all people in this nation Racial reconciliation Revival and unity among churches in Malaysia
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