

Joseph – Trusting in God’s Providence and Faithfulness through Difficult Seasons

Overview of Joseph’s life

- Pre-Egypt – Gen. 37
- Potiphar’s house – Gen. 39: 1-20
- In Jail – Gen. 39: 21-40:23
- Pharaoh’s dream, and Joseph’s Ascension – Gen. 41
- Joseph’s harsh treatment of his brothers – Gen. 42-44
- Joseph reveals himself, re-connects with his brothers and family – Gen. 45-50

Evidences of Joseph trusting God

- Joseph did not blame God for his trials, but rather sought to honor God in them
 - With Potiphar’s wife – Gen. 39:9
 - In Jail with the dreams of the baker and the cupbearer – Gen. 40:8
 - With Pharaoh’s dream – Gen. 41:15-32
 - In not seeking revenge on his brothers – 45:5-9, 50:19-21
- He did not conduct himself in a manner that displayed discontent, bitterness, etc.
- He earned favor with every with everyone he dealt with
 - Potiphar put him in charge over his entire house
 - The prison warden put him in charge over all that was done there
 - This is similar to the picture presented to us of Paul in the book of Acts, through his capture and travel to Rome
- Joseph did not seek to take matters into his own hands

Sources of Joseph’s trust in God

- He didn’t necessarily have a strong example from family life
- Joseph did not lose sight of God’s promises or purposes for his life
- Joseph did not allow his vision and understanding of God to be re-defined as a result of his difficulties
- He did not react to his trials as though they were an indication that God was far from him
- Joseph was able to observe, and be sustained by, God’s faithfulness in the smaller blessings
- He was sustained by his assurance of God’s faithfulness – Heb. 11:1
- Joseph did not seek to take matters into his own hands

God’s Faithfulness displayed

- God is faithful to deliver what He has promised
- God was not faithful to Joseph because he trusted in Him, rather Joseph trusted in God because he was certain of His faithfulness
- God may use trials to strip away things that are keeping us from trusting in Him
- God has an ultimate plan that is bigger than our circumstances
- God invites us to participate in His plan, and will extend His Grace towards that purpose