

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

# THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH

## GENESIS 39

Text: Genesis 39:2

### **Genesis 39:2**

<sup>2</sup> **And the LORD was with Joseph,** and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Introduction:

No doubt there have been times in your life when you thought “Where is the Lord?”

We need to realize that God is real and that He has been with us, guiding us, protecting us, sustaining us, and bringing us to this moment.

As we view the life of Joseph we read that “The Lord was with Joseph.

We also read in verse 3:

### **Genesis 39:3**

<sup>3</sup> **And his master saw that the LORD was with him,** and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

We also read in verse 21 and 23:

**Genesis 5:21 Genesis 39:21**

<sup>21</sup> **But the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

**Genesis 39:23**

<sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; **because the LORD was with him**, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Why was Joseph in Egypt?

It was not because his brothers sold him.

God was in the process of building a great nation, the nation of Israel.

God chose to do his work in Egypt.

Though Joseph seemed to be out of place in Egypt, God was working all along to accomplish His plan.

Understand:

If you are one of God's children, God is with you no matter where you may be.

### **Hebrews 13:5**

*<sup>5</sup> Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

The Lord is with you, and He has brought you to this place in your life to do a wonderful work in your life.

Note:

Sermon Content:

#### 1. The Lord Was With Joseph in the Hour of Loneliness

In Genesis 37 we read:

### **Genesis 37:13-28**

*<sup>13</sup> And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I. <sup>14</sup> And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. <sup>15</sup> And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? <sup>16</sup> And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks. <sup>17</sup> And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found*

them in Dothan. <sup>18</sup> And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. <sup>19</sup> And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. <sup>20</sup> Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. <sup>21</sup> And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. <sup>22</sup> And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. <sup>23</sup> And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; <sup>24</sup> And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup> And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup> And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. <sup>28</sup> Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

This is the account of Joseph's brother selling him to the Ishmeelites.

Imagine a seven-teen year old boy leaving the safety of his father's side and being sold into bondage.

Joseph must have been very lonely.

Joseph was carried away from his home and homeland.

But the Bible records that in Joseph's hour of loneliness the Lord was with him.

God brings us through times of loneliness and times when it seems as if no one really cares.

Then we realize how much He cares and we know that He is with us each step of the way.

Remember:

When we feel all alone, God becomes real to us and we turn to Him.

Note not only was the Lord With Joseph in the Hour of Loneliness but also:

## 2. The Lord Was With Joseph in the Hour of Uncertainty

Joseph lived through a time of not knowing exactly what was going to happen to him.

In Genesis 39:1 we read:

### **Genesis 39:1**

*<sup>1</sup> And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.*

We find that in God's providence Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, the captain of the guard.

God blessed the household of Potiphar for Joseph's sake.

### **Genesis 39:5**

*<sup>5</sup> And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*

Understand:

In the moments when we don't know what to do or where to turn, we must put our faith in the Lord.

He is with us in the hour of uncertainty.

Also understand when God has his hand on someone others can see it – as did Potiphar.

Note not only was the Lord with Joseph in the Hour of Loneliness and Uncertainty but also:

### 3. The Lord Was Joseph in the Hour of Temptation

We read in Genesis 39:7-15:

#### **Genesis 39:7-15**

*<sup>7</sup> And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. <sup>8</sup> But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; <sup>9</sup> There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? <sup>10</sup> And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. <sup>11</sup> And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. <sup>12</sup> And she*

*caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. <sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, <sup>14</sup> That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.*

This was a time of temptation for Joseph that came from Potiphar's wife.

Understand:

The Devil wants to bring together our weakness with evil temptations.

This is what he sought to do in Joseph's life.

But the Lord was with Joseph in the hour of temptation and he fled.

Note James 4:7

**James 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> *Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.*



Note the word “Resist”

We are to resist the devil, but we should avoid sin.

Note two things about avoiding sin:

- It’s Easier to Avoid Sin than to Resist It

Pride often makes us think that we can resist sin.

- If You Don’t Avoid Sin But Only Resist It, the Next Step Is To Commit It

In the Lord’s model prayer we read:

**Matthew 6:13**

*<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

The Lord didn’t tell us to pray for strength the resist sin but not to be led into temptation.

If you think you can put sin in your face every time you turn around and keep resisting, you can't!

I don't know anybody that is strong enough to live that way very long.

David was a man after God's own heart, but he didn't resist Bathsheba.

Do you want to know how to guarantee that you won't fall into sin and wreck your life?

Stop trying to resist temptation day after day, and learn to avoid temptation all together.

The best practice is to run and avoid sin.

The Lord was with Joseph in the Hour of Temptation.

Remember:

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Note one final thought:

## 4. THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH IN THE HOUR OF GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT

Joseph was faithful to God when other men would have yielded.

What did he receive for his faithfulness?

We find out in Genesis 39:16-20:

### **Genesis 39:16-20**

*<sup>16</sup> And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. <sup>17</sup> And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:*

*<sup>18</sup> And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. <sup>19</sup> And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. <sup>20</sup> And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.*

Potiphar's wife lied and Joseph was cast into prison.

This was a time of great discouragement and disappointment.

But note what the Bible says in Genesis 39:21-23:

### **Genesis 39:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> **But the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup> And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. <sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Understand:

We will all be disappointed with others and with ourselves, but the presence of God will sustain us in the hour of disappointment.

Remember:

There is not disappointment in Jesus Christ.

Close:

Just as God was with Joseph he will be with you and me.

I don't know what you may be facing but I do know that God will sustain you through it and you'll be able to stand fast in Him.