

Unjustly Accused

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph's life is a shadow pointing to Jesus. Here are a few examples: Like Jesus, Joseph was beloved by his father and obedient to his will, but he was hated, rejected, and sold as a slave. Like Jesus, Joseph was falsely accused and unjustly punished. Although Joseph was hated, he forgave his brothers who had sold him into slavery. I want you to have a copy of a comparison between Jesus and Joseph.

Joseph, 12 Brothers (Genesis 35:23-26)

Jesus, 12 Disciples (Matthew 10:1-4)

Joseph, Shepherd boy (Gen. 37:2)

Jesus, The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

Joseph, Foretold of his future reign (Gen. 37:6-7)

Jesus, Foretold of His future Kingdom (Matt. 16:28)

Joseph, Stripped of his coat (Gen. 37:23)

Jesus, Stripped of His robe (Matt. 27:31)

Joseph, Betrayed by his own (Gen. 37:12-28)

Jesus, Betrayed by His own (John 13:18-26)

Joseph, Cast into a pit (Gen. 37:22, 28)

Jesus, Cast into a grave (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

Joseph, Overcame temptation (Gen. 39:10)

Jesus, Overcame temptation (Matt. 4:1- 11)

Joseph, Unjustly sentenced (Gen. 39:19-20)

Jesus, Unjustly sentenced (Matt. 27:12)

Joseph has a dream that he will reign over his brothers, and he tells them about this. Joseph's own brothers dislike him so much they sold him into slavery. When Joseph's dad asked about where Joseph was, they tore his coat and dipped it into goat's blood, and they told their dad that a "fierce animal devoured him." The Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of the Pharaoh. Joseph is falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and put into prison. While in prison Joseph interprets two dreams, and then he interprets Pharaoh's dreams. Pharaoh promotes Joseph to second in command over everyone, in charge of the food. Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt to buy food, and Joseph shows them love and forgiveness.

What do we do when we're falsely accused?

Remember that God Never Forsakes His Children (Gen. 45:4-7) In verse 7 Joseph acknowledges that God never forsook him, but that it was God's plan all along. The chief cupbearer remembers that Joseph interpreted his dream while in prison, and after two years calls on him in regard to Pharaoh's dream. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream. As a result, Pharaoh promotes Joseph. Listen to Gen. 41:39-41 "Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land

of Egypt.” Unfortunately, we may have to spend some time in the pit to realize that God will not forsake us.

Respond with Grace and Forgiveness (Gen. 45:8) Joseph was a lot more merciful than I would have been. Isn't that how we are to respond? This takes the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to respond like this. Listen to Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Also Romans 12:14-21 “14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Peter wrote about this concerning the suffering of Christ and challenges believers to follow in Him as our example. 1 Peter 2:21-25.

Rest in the Sovereign Foreknowledge of God (Gen. 50:15-20) Jacob is proclaiming to his brothers, the ones who put in the pit, sold him into slavery, that you will never be as powerful as God. It may seem bad, but God will use it for His glory! You may be going through something very difficult, but you can rest upon the sovereignty of God! This past Wednesday I had the privilege to give a presentation on military chaplains during 9/11 at the Pentagon. The place that American Airlines Flight 77 hit was right where the top chaplains of our armed services branches offices are located. Because of renovations, they were moved outside of the building at that time! You don't have to be Presbyterian to see that was God's Providence!

Romans 8:18 “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”