

Genesis 37:12-28

*There is a false teaching going around often referred to as the “Health, Wealth, and Prosperity Gospel.” As much as I wish it were true, it is not; nor does God will it to be true; for how shall we better know Him if it were? The life of Joseph clearly reveals that living a life for God does not guarantee smooth sailing, a happy sunrise, and easy living for the rest of our lives. But it does reveal that it is possible to **flourish** in the darkest of times, and in the darkest of places.*

The focus of our message on Jonah was a **False Assumption** that God is not listening to our prayers, when in fact, we’re not listening to him due to a lack of devotion, obedience, and dependence. Today’s message is a lesson learned by Joseph in *his* pit about **Faithfully Abiding** no matter what the circumstances.

What allowed Joseph to flourish in his darkest times? And how might we do the same? We see three things:

1. A Lad who Settled the **Differences** in His Heart—*Joseph needed to decide whether to trust God, or to handle things his own way.*
 - a. An **Estimation** was Measured
 - Romans 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself **more highly** than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of **faith**.”
 - James 4:14, “...what is your life? It is even a **vapor**, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Once Joseph came to the realization that his life would be meaningless without God’s help

- b. An **Exchange** was Made
 - Isaiah 61:3, “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them **beauty for ashes**, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”
 - Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye

transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- Psalm 34:18, “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a **broken** heart; and saveth such as be of a **contrite** spirit.”
 - Psalm 51:17, “The **sacrifices** of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
 - ✓ Faithfully Abiding means to lay all that you thought best for yourself moment by moment **on the altar**, and to trust that God’s plan is better, no matter what it may be.
- c. An **Expectation** was Maintained
 - Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected end**.”
 - Job 23:10, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”
 - ✓ **Maintain, Sustain, and Obtain!**
 - ✓ 1 Cor 9:24, “So run, that ye may **obtain**.”



2. A Laborer who **Saw** the Direction of a Holy Hand—*It is necessary that we understand that because Joseph settled the differences, he was able to see God’s leading clearly. He also began to realize that he would never find stability in human dependence:*
 - a. His Brothers Secretly Forsook Him
 - b. Potiphar’s Wife Shamelessly Framed Him
 - c. The Butler Soon Forgot Him

But through it all

- d. God was **faithful** to Him
- Use the blank lines to note some interesting comparisons in these verses:
- Genesis 37:25-28 _____
 - Genesis 39:1-2 _____
 - Genesis 39:20-21 _____
 - Genesis 50:16-20 _____

Ponder this: Psalm 27:13, “I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

3. A Lord who Secured the _____ of a Humble Human
 - a. The Lord Used an Ordinary Adolescent to _____ Israel in the Most Unlikely Place
 - b. The Lord Used an Old Antique to _____ Israel in the Most Unlikely Predicament

