

# **GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS**

## **Part 7 of Foundation 260 - OT. Genesis 39:19-23.**

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 15, 2026.

### **JOSEPH'S BACKGROUND**

#### **Joseph is a fascinating character**

- His life was filled with high highs and low lows.
- Great-grandson of Abraham, so an heir to the covenant promises.
- One of the 12 sons of Jacob, so one of the Patriarchs of Israel.

#### **But that did not make Joseph's life a walk in the park.**

### **JOSEPH'S LIFE STORY**

#### **Joseph's life was filled with twists and turns that illustrate God's mysterious ways.**

- Joseph was Jacob's favorite son.
- God showed Joseph in a dream that he would rule over his brothers.
- Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him, but ended up selling him as a slave.
- He was bought by an Egyptian official named Potiphar, yet prospered (see Genesis 29:2-4).
- Potiphar's wife propositioned Joseph, but when he resisted, she falsely accused him of attacking her.
- Potiphar put Joseph in prison, but the warden promoted Joseph.
- Joseph was released and made the prime minister of Egypt.
- Joseph rescued his father and brothers during a famine.

# GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS

**God's mysterious ways are called "providence."**

- God is sovereign over everything in order to accomplish his plans.

Joseph's prison experience illustrates God's providence.

- His reward for living with integrity was prison.

*Genesis 39:19-23 (CSB) When his master heard the story his wife told him — "These are the things your slave did to me" — he was furious 20 and had him thrown into prison, where the king's prisoners were confined. So Joseph was there in prison.*

*21 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor with the prison warden. 22 The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there. 23 The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him, and the LORD made everything that he did successful.*

**Joseph's success didn't depend on people, location, or luck, but on God.**

- The Bible tells us, "*The Lord was with him, and the Lord made everything that he did successful*" (verses 3 and 23).

## GOOD & BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOD'S PEOPLE

**Life is never a straight line to success.**

- God's covenant promises do not shield us from hard knocks.
- Joseph suffered for doing the right thing. Even Jesus suffered and died for doing the right thing, and so did the apostle Paul.

*2 Corinthians 11:23 (CSB) Are they servants of Christ? I'm talking like a madman — I'm a better one: with far more labors, many more imprisonments, far worse beatings, many times near death. (See vv. 24-27)*

# **GOD'S PLAN ALWAYS SUCCEEDS**

**God's plan was to send a Savior from the nation of Israel.**

- Joseph and his brothers would become the Patriarchs of Israel. So Joseph's life was protected and preserved so that he could be in place as Egypt's prime minister and provide grain for his brothers during famine.

**God's plans always succeed because, as Ephesians 1:11 points out:**

- It is *"the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will."*
- I recite Romans 8 to remind me that God is working his plan in my life.

*Romans 8:28-30 (CSB) We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...*

**God uses everything we're going through ...**

- To transform our character and advance his saving, sanctifying plan for us.
- *"It's all good"* isn't a throwaway phrase.

## **REST IN THE GREATNESS OF GOD**

**When I'm stressed out and anxious, what helps me the most is a reminder that God is great, and his plan for me is good. He never fails.**

- The crucified Christ looked like a failure, but God raised him. Remember, *"It's Friday but Sunday's comin'."*

*Jude 1:24-25 (CSB) Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen.*

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## Review

- Review Peter's February 22<sup>nd</sup> teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

## Discuss

1. How does it change your view of "success" to see Joseph thriving both in Potiphar's house and in prison, not because of circumstances but because "the Lord was with him"?
2. Joseph ends up in prison precisely because he did the right thing. How does that challenge the idea that "if I obey God, life will go smoothly"? How can we avoid getting mad at God when things don't go the way we want?
3. If you really believed God is using every circumstance to make you more like Christ and to bring you to glory, what is one attitude or habit that would begin to change this week?
4. How does the pattern of cross then resurrection—"it's Friday but Sunday's coming"—shape the way you face present anxiety, grief, or disappointment?

## Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray for "eyes" to see and a heart to believe that God is working his plan in our lives, even in the highs and lows we experience.