

SERMON NOTES

September 22, 2019

The Story: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh (Ch. 3)

Genesis 37:1-17 – Pastor Todd Manuel

The Bigger Picture (God's Upper Story)

Jacob

The preservation of the nation/family

- There was a famine in the land

Joseph

Joseph's role in The Story must be understood in the context of the bigger picture.

Joseph's story is important also in other ways also because in it we see how God works in our lives as people of faith

- Jacob's son
- Jacob's favourite son
- Hated by his brothers
- A dreamer

The Nature of Trouble

Different kinds of trouble

- Some trouble is not always our fault
- Some trouble comes because we are Christ followers

John 15:18-21; John 16:33

- Sometimes trouble is self-inflicted

Character development

God is more concerned about what happens in us than what happen through us.

God's providence

Genesis 39:1-4, 20-23

The Lord was with him

Trouble can make it look like we have lost in the short run, but it always pays off in the long run.

The 50/20 principle

God uses everything

God knows how to redeem everything in our lives for the sake of his upper story and for the benefit of our lower

It might take a while

You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime, don't be foolish or naïve. But don't despair either. With God's help, you will get through this.

Max Lucado

- There are two stories going on in our life – an upper story and a lower story
- The goal is to align our story to God's Story

Isaiah 55:8-9

- God promises that when we will align our story to His story He promises it will be a good story.

Romans 8:28

For Further Thought

What are some of the things the Lord may have worked in Joseph's life through his many years of trouble? What were some of the doubts he may have faced? What can we learn from his example?

In effect Joseph said to his brothers, "What you meant for evil God meant for good." Have you ever had an experience where, looking back, you can see God bringing good out of a sinful choice or an evil act?