

Sunday Morning, January 21, 2018
The Loved Son, Tempted as We Are
Genesis 39

- I. Joseph's Integrity in His Rise to Power 39:1–5
 - A. Joseph Has Become Very Successful and Powerful 39:4
 - B. Joseph Has Become Successful Not Just Because of His Hard Work 39:2, 3, 5, 20–21, 23
 - C. Joseph Overcomes Temptations from Power

- II. Joseph's Integrity in His Position of Power 39:6–12
 - A. Potiphar's Wife Abused Her Power
 - B. Joseph Overcomes Temptations of Sexual Sin
 - 1. He Was Facing Temptations from the Flesh
 - 2. He Was Facing Temptations as the Victim
 - 3. He Was Facing Temptations with the Truth

- III. Joseph's Integrity in Fall from Power 39:13–23
 - A. Ultimately this Is Not an Account of How to Handle Sexual Temptation
 - B. Joseph Faces the Greatest Temptation of Suffering after He's Been Obedient
 - C. The Righteous Man Suffers According to God's Will
 - 1. By the Narrow View, this Appears to Be Very Unfair, Unloving of God
 - 2. With the Wider View, God's Will in this Was for Good
 - D. The Righteous Man Suffers but Always under God's Love and Care

Quotes

"Your afflictions may only prove that you are more immediately under the Father's hand. There is no time that the patient is such an object of tender interest to the surgeon, as when he is bleeding beneath his knife. So you may be sure if you are suffering from the hand of a reconciled God, that his eye is all the more bent on you."

(Robert Murray McCheyne)

Paul Tripp, in his book, *Awe. Why It Matters for Everything We Think, Say and Do* (99f), gives us five questions to focus the heart on the goodness of God in the middle of suffering, doubt and pain: *Do you believe*

1. Is God is good? —not as defined by comfortable gifts He gives us, but in himself is He good?
2. Will God do what he promised? God's promises give us hope, courage. Strength to continue on in faith. His promises are designed to be the way that you interpret and make sense of your life (102).
3. Is God in control? God can only guarantee his promises if he's in absolute control of every situation, person, detail.
4. Does God have the needed power to fulfill His promises?
5. Does God care about me? All that He is, He is for me, believer. The Bible never debates God's care, it assumes and declares it. "His care is so awesome and so complete that nothing in your life's experience in any way compares. He cares."

"When God appears to be silent, He is not absent; when He is hidden, it is not impotence. When God seems the most hidden, often He is working the most for us." (Tim Keller)

"Suffering is never a sign of God's wrath against the believer, much less a sign that we are not elect. Trials are the workshop of a Father, not the threats of a Judge. The arrow that looks as if it were targeting our heart is actually aimed at the sin that clings to us, so that we may be loosened from its grip. Sometimes even when God delivers us from calamities, it is at the last moment, so that we can only cast ourselves upon him—and what an experience of growth this produces!" . . . "Properly speaking, God is not angry with his elect, whose diseases he cures by afflictions as it were by medicines." . . . "Christ has propitiated God's wrath against us, so any trials that God sends our way are entirely for our good and should not be seen as an act of retribution for our sins." (John Calvin)

"My mind was drawn to Pastor Sadeed suffering for Christ in an Iranian prison. 'Some Christians are called to endure a disproportionate amount of suffering. Such Christians are a spectacle of grace to the church, like flaming bushes unconsumed, and cause us to ask, like Moses: 'Why is this bush not burned up?' The strength and stability of these believers can be explained only by the miracle of God's sustaining grace. The God who sustains Christians in unceasing pain is the same God—with the same grace—who sustains me in my smaller sufferings. We marvel at God's persevering grace and grow in our confidence in Him as He governs our lives." (Joni Tada)

Dr. John Dunlop, in his book, *Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia*, writes,

"There you are at the cross with the few of his disciples who have the stomach to watch. And you hear people say, 'I've had it with this God. How could he abandon the best man we have ever seen? *I don't see how God could bring any good out of this.*' What would you say? You would likely agree.

"And yet you are standing there looking at the greatest, most brilliant thing God could ever do for the human race. On the cross, both justice and love are being satisfied—evil, sin and death are being defeated. You are looking at an absolute beauty, *but because you cannot fit it into your own limited understanding, you are in danger of walking away from God.*"

"If God is small enough to be understood, he wouldn't be big enough to be worshiped."

(Evelyn Underhill)

God is too good to be unkind, too wise to be mistaken; and when you cannot trace His hand, you can trust His heart." (Charles Spurgeon)