

What to do When Life is Crazy

Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Difficult family life

1. Joseph's mom died when he was 13-16 (Genesis 35:16-21)
 - **Jesus almost for certain knows this pain**
 - *"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." – John 19:25-27*
 - *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." – Hebrews 4:15,16*

2. He wanted to follow God's leading, and his brothers hated him (Genesis 37:1-11)
 - **Jesus was rejected by many in His own family and town**
 - *"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him." – John 7:1-5*
 - *"And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, **A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.** And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." – Matthew 13:54-58*

Being treated Horribly

3. They were going to kill him, but instead they threw him in a pit (Genesis 37:12-24)
 - **Jesus was despised, rejected, and betrayed by those He loved**
 - *"He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: And we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not." – Isaiah 53:3*
 - Jesus was betrayed by Judas, whom He called "friend"
 - ALL of the disciples forsook Jesus and fled
 - Matthew 26:48-56

4. And then they sold him as a slave into Egypt. He was 17. (Genesis 37:25-36)
 - **But the Bible says that God was with Joseph**
 - **Hebrews 13:5**

Being Lied about

5. There he was wrongfully accused of trying to have an affair with his master's wife (He is probably about 26 now). (Genesis 39:1-16, 19)
 - When someone tries to get you to sin, the best thing to do is to leave
 - Jesus was constantly lied about by the religious leaders of His time

Terrible Circumstances

6. He was then thrown in prison (Genesis 39:20-23)
 - Jesus was betrayed, imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and crucified – even though He did no wrong.
7. When he was 27, he interpreted the dreams of 2 prisoners (Genesis 40)
 - Butler - vine with 3 branches, buds, blossoms, grapes, juice in pharaoh's cup
 - Answer - in 3 days, you will be released to serve Pharaoh again! REMEMBER ME.
 - Baker - 3 baskets on my head with baked goods for Pharaoh. Birds came, and ate the food out of the basket.
 - Answer - in 3 days Pharaoh will have you hanged.

Do we feel stuck in a situation that is out of our control?

Being Forgotten

8. The dreams come true, but the butler forgot about Joseph (Genesis 40:20-23)
 - When Jesus was arrested, all of His disciples forsook Him and fled. Peter even denied that he knew Jesus!

Things Start to Change

9. Joseph is now close to 30, and the butler remembers him! He correctly interprets Pharaoh's dream with God's help, and is set free! (Genesis 41:1-36)
10. Joseph is made the 2nd most powerful man in Egypt, and when Joseph is close to 40, his brothers come to Egypt to be saved from a famine. – They don't know who he is though. (Genesis 41:37 - 44:34)
11. Eventually, he tells his brothers who he is, and they immediately are afraid for their lives.
12. Joseph tells them not to be afraid, and they all hug each other and cry together
13. Eventually, His whole family moves to Egypt, and Joseph is reunited with his dad. (Genesis 45)

God was with Joseph this whole time

Hebrews 13:5 *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

Hebrews 4:15–16 *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*