

JOSEPH

"Living Above Mediocrity"

"Where is God when life doesn't make sense?"

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. – **II Corinthians 12:7-10**

When life seems unfair: Remember, we live in a fallen world.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. – **Romans 1:28-32**

- ❖ We are affected by those who do evil.
- ❖ Joseph was the object of others bitterness and anger.
- ❖ Job was honest with His feelings when life did not make sense.

Yet when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, then came darkness. ²⁷The churning inside me never stops; days of suffering confront me. – **Job 30:26-27**

Unfair treatment or mistreatment comes in many forms and most fall into these four categories:

- 1) Undeserved treatment from family.

Abrasive homes, angry mothers, absent dads.

- 2) Unexpected restriction of circumstances.

This happens when you are suddenly confined, either emotionally or physically.

The scars from past emotional abuse can make you feel like a prisoner in your own dungeon.

- 3) Untrue accusations.
- 4) Unfair abandonment.

Where is the good news in all of this?

- It is during those times God will speak His best messages to you.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains."

C.S. Lewis

Two roads that we can choose: The road of bitterness or the road that puts our hope and trust in God.

Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. ¹⁰Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. ¹¹Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. ¹²Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. ¹³And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged." ¹⁴So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. ¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." – **Genesis 41:9-16**

Question: How did Joseph overcome unfair treatment?

Answer: How Joseph responded to Pharaoh. "I cannot do it," Joseph replied, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."