

# Innocent, Yet Suffering

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>; Steve Thiel

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**Sermon Theme: God is with His people both in prosperity and adversity. His presence, however, does not mean that we will not suffer for the sake of the gospel. We must follow Jesus in being willing to suffer so that we might experience the eternal weight of glory that is beyond all comparison.**

**I. Innocent Suffering With Potiphar – Read Genesis 39:1-20 and answer the following questions.**

- A. List all the different ways in which Joseph is innocent, and yet is suffering?
- B. In what ways does the narrative make it clear that the Lord is blessing Joseph?
- C. How is Joseph's immediate refusal of Potiphar's wife's proposal a good example for us to follow in dealing with temptation in our own lives? How is James 1:13-15 helpful on this topic?
- D. How does Joseph being falsely accused remind you of Jesus? What passages come to mind?

**II. Innocent Suffering in Prison – Read Genesis 39:20-40:23 and answer the following questions.**

- A. How is God's steadfast love for Joseph (v.21) compatible with His willingness to let him suffer for something he didn't actually do? How do those two things fit together in your mind?
- B. In what ways does Joseph demonstrate love and kindness and interest in his fellow prisoners?
- C. How do you typically respond to stressful situations and suffering? How would you like to grow in this area of your life? If you could describe a perfect response, what would it look like?
- D. What do we learn about Joseph from his ability to interpret the prisoner's dreams in chapter 40?

**III. Innocent Suffering of Jesus – Read the verses listed and answer the following questions.**

- A. List all the different connections that you can make between Joseph and Jesus as it pertains to being tempted, and yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15); and being innocent, and yet suffering?
- B. According to Romans 8:14-18, 1 Peter 2:20-24, and 2 Timothy 3:12, how important is suffering with regard to our faith in Christ and our willingness to live godly lives?
- C. List the different ways in your life in which you avoid suffering (i.e. being disobedient)?
- D. What are some ways that God may want you to grown in suffering for the sake of the gospel?