

Dover

Daily

DEVOTIONALS

Growing
Together in
God's Word!

In this week's sermon, we emphasized that God calls each person for a specific purpose and that our life experiences (both good and bad) equip individuals for their divine calling. We looked into Joseph's life, highlighting his resilience and commitment to God during slavery and success, triumph over temptation, and endurance in the face of false accusations. We saw that Joseph's imprisonment played a crucial part in God's plan, presented as a refining process. We concluded by urging reflection on personal responses to trials and blessings, emphasizing the higher ways of God. Finally, we drew parallels between Joseph's journey and God's redemptive plan, concluding with an invitation to respond to the gospel for forgiveness and eternal life.

Dover Daily Devotionals:

Monday: From Slavery to Success

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him and caused all he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. - Genesis 39:1-6, ESV

In the journey from slavery to success, Joseph teaches us valuable lessons about resilience, faith, and diligence. Sold as a slave by his own brothers, Joseph found himself in a foreign land, far from his family and the comforts of home. Yet, amid this trial, Joseph did not succumb to despair. Instead, he turned to God, seeking strength and guidance. The remarkable aspect of Joseph's response is not only his reliance on prayer but also his commitment to hard work. Joseph's dedication, work ethic, and unwavering faith caught the attention of Potiphar, his master. This teaches us that, even in the most challenging circumstances, our faith should be complemented by diligent effort. When we combine trust in God with hard work, we position ourselves for His favor and blessings.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we maintain a strong work ethic and trust in God during challenging times?
2. In what ways can our dedication to God be evident in our daily work and interactions with others?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we face the challenges of life, help us to turn to you in prayer and to approach our tasks with diligence and faith. May our commitment to you be reflected in our work, and may your favor be upon us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Tuesday: Triumph over Temptation

And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. - Genesis 39:7-12, ESV

Joseph's life in Egypt was not only marked by trials but also by the temptation to compromise his moral integrity. The story illustrates the commonality of temptation and the immense pressure Joseph faced in a foreign and enticing environment. In the face of this trial, Joseph's commitment to righteousness shines through. He recognized the potential consequences of succumbing to the temptation presented by Potiphar's wife. Joseph understood that sin is not merely a personal choice but a transgression against God's moral law. His steadfastness in the face of persistent temptation serves as a powerful example for us. Just as Joseph faced the allure of sin, we, too, encounter various temptations. However, like Joseph, we are assured that God provides a way of escape and the strength to endure.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we follow Joseph's example in resisting persistent temptations in our lives?
2. In what ways does the recognition of sin as a transgression against God help us resist temptation?

Prayer:

Gracious Lord, in moments of temptation, grant us the strength to resist and the wisdom to discern the way of escape you provide. May our commitment to righteousness be unwavering, just as Joseph's was. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Wednesday: In the Face of False Accusations

And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house." As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. - Genesis 39:13-20, ESV

Joseph's life took yet another turn when false accusations landed him in prison. Falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, Joseph faced public humiliation and imprisonment for a crime he did not commit. In times of false accusations, we can relate to Joseph's experience. The world may misunderstand and misjudge us, tarnishing our reputation and causing emotional pain. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are reminded that persecution and false accusations are to be expected. In these moments, we can find solace in the example of Christ, who endured similar trials. Joseph's story encourages us to respond with forgiveness and endurance, trusting that God sees the truth.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we respond with grace and forgiveness when facing false accusations?
2. In what ways does knowing that Christ endured false accusations help us navigate similar situations?

Prayer:

Merciful Father, in times of false accusations, grant us the strength to forgive and endure. May our response reflect the grace and forgiveness modeled by Christ. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Thursday 4: From Prison to Purpose

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed. - Genesis 39:21-23, ESV

Joseph's imprisonment, though a consequence of false accusations, became a pivotal chapter in his journey. In the depths of despair, Joseph turned to God for strength, echoing the sentiments expressed in Psalm 105:17-18. This season of imprisonment was not wasted; it served as a refining fire, shaping Joseph into a compassionate, enduring, and resolute leader. The story reminds us that our trials, whether brought about by our own actions or external circumstances, can be the very means through which God shapes and prepares us for His divine purposes. Joseph's unwavering faith and hard work in prison did

not go unnoticed. The favor of the Lord remained with him, and he became a source of hope and inspiration to those around him, even in the darkest of times.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we maintain faith and trust in God's plan during challenging seasons of life?
2. In what ways can our response to trials be a source of hope and inspiration to others?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, in times of despair and trial, grant us the strength to turn to you for guidance and strength. May our faith remain unwavering, and may our response to challenges be a testimony to your sustaining grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Friday: Triumph in Adversity

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed. - Genesis 39:21-23, ESV

As we delve into the story of Joseph's imprisonment, we witness a profound example of triumph in adversity. Falsely accused and confined to prison, Joseph's situation seemed dire. Yet, in the darkest moment of his life, he turned to God for strength and help. The narrative in Genesis 39:21-23 reveals that even in the confinement of a prison cell, Joseph found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This season of adversity was not a detour from God's plan but a crucial chapter in Joseph's journey of preparation. The adversity he faced became the crucible through which his character was refined, paving the way for his purpose in the unfolding narrative of God's redemptive plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can Joseph's response to adversity inspire us in our own challenging circumstances?
2. In what ways can we find favor in the eyes of the Lord, even in the midst of adversity?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, in times of adversity, grant us the strength to turn to you for guidance and strength, just as Joseph did. May we see beyond our current circumstances and trust that you are working all things for our good. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Saturday: A Legacy of Forgiveness

And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came into me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house." As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. - Genesis 39:15-21, ESV

The story of Joseph's time in Potiphar's house brings us face-to-face with the theme of forgiveness in the context of false accusations. Falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, Joseph faced the consequences of a crime he did not commit. In this situation, Joseph's response to adversity foreshadows the forgiveness he would later extend to his brothers. Despite being wronged, Joseph chose not to harbor bitterness or seek revenge. His focus remained on his faithfulness to God. The narrative unfolds with Joseph in prison, falsely accused and yet maintaining a spirit of forgiveness. This legacy of forgiveness, rooted in Joseph's faith, serves as a powerful testament to the transformative work of God in the face of unjust circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Joseph's response to false accusations exemplify a heart of forgiveness?
2. In what ways can we cultivate a spirit of forgiveness in the midst of unjust situations?

Prayer:

Gracious Father, as we navigate through false accusations and unjust circumstances, empower us to follow Joseph's example of forgiveness. May our hearts be transformed by your grace, enabling us to extend mercy and compassion to those who have wronged us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.