

Genesis 39

"What It's Like When Yahweh Is with You"

What happens to you, and how do you respond, when the Lord is with you?

Pastor leads his family in tomorrow's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these twenty-three verses, we learn that sometimes when the Lord is with you, you end up in things like hard circumstances, facing severe temptation, repeated temptation, false accusation, and wrongful imprisonment. But, by the Lord's being with you by His grace, you can be diligent and faithful in those circumstances and consistently resist severe temptation.

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Genesis 39, these are God's words. Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt and Potofer an officer of Pharaoh captain of the guard and Egyptian bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. He always was with Joseph and he was a successful man and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

And his master saw that you always was with him and that you all had made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight and served him. And he made him overseer of his house and all that he had he put under his authority and so it was from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had that Yahweh blessed the Egyptians house for Joseph's sake.

When the blessing of Yahweh was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had and Joseph's hand. And he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph and she said lie with me but he refused and he said to his master's wife. Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house. And he has committed all that he has to my hand.

There is no one greater in this house than I nor is he kept back anything from me, but you because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God? So it was as she spoke to Joseph. Day by day that he did not heed her to lie with her or to be with her.

But it happened about this time when Joseph went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was inside that she caught him by his garment saying lie with me, but he left his garment in her hand and fled and ran outside. And so it was when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and flat outside she called to the men of her house and spoke

to them saying see he has brought into us a Hebrew to mock us.

He came in to lie with me and I cried out with a loud voice and it happened when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out that he left his garment with me and fled and went outside. So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.

Then she spoke to him with words like these saying the Hebrew servant to me brought to us came to me to mock me so it happened as I lifted my voice and cried out he left his garment with me and fled outside. And so it was when his master heard the words, which his wife spent him saying your servant did to me.

After this manner that his anger was aroused. Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison a place where the king's prisoners work and find and he was there in the prison. But y'all way was with Joseph. And showed him mercy and he gave him favor and the side of the keeper of the prison and the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hands all the prisoners prisoners who were in the prison.

Whatever they did there, it was his doing. To keep her of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority. Because Yahweh was with him. And whatever he did. Yahweh made a prosper. So for the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. So notice the theme of the chapter as a whole of course is that you always would just verse two he always was verse three his master saw that you all pay was with him he only prospered him verse five you always bless the Egyptians house for Joseph sake.

And then in the the episode with the pot of first wife and you wonder as you always deal with him, yes, he is verse 21, but you always with Joseph showed him mercy. Verse 23, keep your representative anything under his authority because you always with him. And so this is a chapter all about how y'all way was with Joseph.

Now this is important for us because they're going to be times in your life. God sparing you when you are going to wonder if the Lord is still with you. There are lots of people who teach and make a lot of money teaching and writing books about how to get the Lord to be with you so that you can be happy and healthy and wealthy and have everything go well for you all the time.

As that what it looks like when you always with you. Is that what it was like for Joseph let's consider some of the things that that were true of him while the Lord was with him. He was sold into slavery by his brothers. He was lied about. He was imprisoned based upon that lie.

And for those of us who are spiritually minded even worse he was put under great temptation. Paula for trusted Joseph completely probably could have gotten away with giving in to Potiphar's wife there's a great temptation not only was it a great temptation but. It was a repeated temptation day after day after day.

And then he got put in a position that he was probably trying to avoid but despite his attempt to avoid it if he was trying to avoid it he got put into it anyway one day he was alone with her in the house. And he's trying to do his work and she actually gets such hold of his garment that he's unable to get away with it and so he has to choose between keeping his garment and getting away from the temptation and he actually chooses getting away.

And of course, she uses it as evidence. So. Having the Lord be with you sometimes means ending up in hard earthly circumstances and having people tell lies about you and having injustice committed against you on the basis of those lies. That is what it is like sometimes to have the Lord with you.

But having the Lord with you also means the Lord enabling you to respond well to your situation. So he gets sold into slavery, what does he do he works hard? He works hard and he gets put into the house he always with Joseph he was a successful man and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian it doesn't tell us that there's a causal relationship there perhaps he was put into the house immediately perhaps there was a kind of trial period where they're figuring out where the slaves can best be used.

Joseph was diligent even though he was not in a situation that he would have chosen the Lord being with you helping you by his spirit overcoming your flesh your sin. Full so itself sometimes in your being diligent even at work that you might not necessarily. Have preferred over others.

So there's his diligence. Lord being with you means resisting temptation. And not just the once. When he gives his explanation and verses 8 through 10, sorry 8 through 9 and you see the way that he resisted temptation he doesn't say my master might find out he doesn't even say I will know it.

He says I can't do this and sin against God. He knows the Lord is with him. And he won't sin against God before whom he lives his life. Every one of you needs to live your life before the Lord he will be with you to help you resist the temptation but it's not just one no the Lord being with you means you give a big no to the big temptation and repeated nose to every temptation verse 10, so it was expected as if day by day, we thank God when he helps us to resist a temptation, it feels good to know that he has spared us.

It's kind of well to use. Maybe a dumb illustration, you know, the elf woman who tests are self to see if she would really take the ring and use its power and passed and I passed and she feels like she has passed a victim well that's very overdramatized thing in a film but it feels good.

To trust in the Lord and look to him to help you to resist a temptation and then you actually do it. But you you have to keep doing it over and over and over again and the Lord is faithful and as faithfulness is persistent the perseverance of the saints the fact that one who genuinely believes in Jesus is going to get all the way to glory the perseverance of the saints exists because of the person's distance of God's grace.

Carrying and bearing with those saints so the Lord being with you may mean being diligent to maybe resisting temptation it may mean resisting a great temptation and repeated resisting repeated temptation. The Lord being with you means not becoming discouraged when you have been diligent and faithful and immediate and your providential rewards seems like to be punished he goes from being over one of the highest houses and all of Egypt.

To being in the jail, what does he do there same thing the Lord is with him so he's diligent and faithful. I'm guessing the keeper of the prison wasn't really in the habit of trusting the prisoners. When you keep a jail the kind of people you end up with in the jail, usually train you pretty quickly to suspect everyone of everything.

And yet because the Lord was with him. Stirring up Joseph's faith. Keeping him trusting in his God before him he still knew he was Joseph was faithful enough consistently enough that the the keeper of the prison eventually was like huh? I don't even have to do my job. I can have this prisoner do it for me.

And he actually had Joseph be the one who was over all the prisoners he didn't pay attention to what was going on it's pretty bad right the keeper of the prison did not look into it into into anything that was under his authority. What was under his authority, oh the whole prison.

So he was like on permanent vacation there's like being on welfare except for instead of the government he had Joseph. And. We pray that the Lord will be merciful to us. But we don't have his wisdom. And I don't know what his providence is going to be for you my dear children.

I suspect that you will end up in hard circumstances. And you may end up going from hard circumstances to harder circumstances. And you may have people who tell lies about you that are far more reaching and damaging than just making a couple people think badly of you. I'm pretty sure in my reading of the passage that Potiphar for knew she was lying.

He knew Joseph he knew his wife, but there was that inconvenient garment in her hands. And so it looked like she had evidence and she had this plausible story and he was forced to act he imagined your household has been blessed under this guy and the kind of wife that she was being one who would be unfaithful to him, he probably would have rather lost her.

Than lost Joseph but he got put in a hard hard position, he was angry at her words.

So you may end up. You may end up in some of these or other very hard situations, but remember. That God has given you himself in Christ. One of Jesus's names is literally God with us. And so whether through fire or through water, whatever it is that the Lord is doing just like in Psalm 23, whether in the presence of your enemies, whether in the valley of dark shadow sometimes in green and pastures and by still waters wherever it is.

The Lord is with you because he's given you himself in Christ and he is

sealed you with his spirit so you have these theological certainties that come from the gospel to know that what is true of Joseph and Genesis 39 is true of each of you and my dear children and 2020 and in 2021.

And don't get into the discouragement or complaining or grumbling spirit that people have gotten into even among believers telling all their 2020 jokes. You have 20/20 was a muffin and it's got all the nails and stuff sticking out of it or whatever the stupid memes. Every year of your life is a year of God's good and abundant and merciful.

Providence. Even if everything goes opposite what you would have wanted even if someone lies about you and you end up in prison. Because God is. With us and we should seek instead that by his being with us we would say no to temptation. Great temptation. Repeated temptation that we would serve diligently and that we would be happy to tell people we belong to.

Yale. So that when they see that we serve diligently and when they see that he prospers the work of our hands, they will know that the praise and the glory belongs to him. And pray.

Our father how we thank you for. Your mercy to this family that you had been with us. They've gone through. Some difficult things. You have brought us primarily through many easy and comfortable gentle things. We'll praise you for the pleasantness and the prosperity of the life that you have given us we recognize Lord.

That even that merciful. Providence carries with it some temptations to our sinful flesh. And so we pray that you would be with us to make us to remember that we are before your face to make this diligent and all we do to serve and honor your name. To be quick to give your praise out to whoever we have opportunity.

To trust you to say no to temptation. We thank you most of all for Christ that by his righteousness his sacrifice by your spirit training us to call you our Abba and applying the character of Christ to us more than more more and more. Than we may know that you are with us.

This is our hope and joy before you. In Jesus name. Amen.