

Date: March 15, 2026

Title: When God is With You.

Passage: Genesis 39

Summary:

- I. God is with us in our difficult circumstances.
- II. God is with us in our moral temptations.
- III. God is with us even in our unjust suffering.
- IV. God is with us when we are in our season of waiting.

Key Truths:

- Does God still have a wonderful plan for our life when life is hard? Yes. God's plan is for our transformation - the focus is for our eternal good. Sometimes hard valleys and circumstances occur to transform us and prepare us for what is to come long-term.
- God's special presence - It refers to God's covenantal favor, guidance, and saving help. God makes His presence felt or manifested in a special way.
- Usually when we lose God's manifest presence in our lives, it is not because God departed from us, it is because we have stopped believing in God and His promises that He is always with us and working for our eternal good.
- The greatest motivation for holiness is remembering that God is with us.
- God has placed you where you are in His providence. He has you there for a reason (otherwise, in His power, it would be different). Where you are, God wants to use you for something you may not see at this time. Ground your identity in Christ (not in your appearance or status).

Application:

1. God's presence does not always change our circumstances but it changes how we endure them.
2. Live your life before the presence of God.
3. Trust in God even when you cannot see it.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How have you seen God's power clearly displayed in your life in the past?
- How has believing in God and His promises helped you through past difficult seasons of life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

God is with us.

- But what happens when we have problems (at home or in workplace or have disease/physical problems)?
 - Does God still have a wonderful plan for our life?
 - Yes. God's plan is for our transformation - the focus is for our eternal good.
 - Sometimes hard valleys and circumstances occur to transform us and prepare us for what is to come long-term.

Genesis 39

- Main theme: remember that God is with you.
- Truth: God is present with us in all circumstances.

Overview

- God is with us in our difficult circumstances.
- God is with us in our moral temptations.
- God is with us even in our unjust suffering.
- God is with us when we are in our season of waiting.

Passage:

Genesis 39

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

Joseph

- previously was the favored son of his father.
 - He had been living the high-life
- But his life changed dramatically from a favored son to a slave.

I. GOD IS WITH US IN OUR DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. (v.1-6)

Genesis 39:1-6

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 that the LORD caused all that 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. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

The LORD was with Joseph

God is with us always.

- Attribute of God: God's omnipresence
 - God is everywhere at all times.
 - Contrast: Satan is only in one place at one time.
- Presence is not about salvation but one of the Creator over His creation.

Acts 17:28

for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

Jeremiah 23:23-24

“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

Psalms 139:7-12

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

- There is no place that exists where God is not present. God is overseeing all things at all times.

Definition

God's special presence - It refers to God's covenantal favor, guidance, and saving help. God makes His presence felt or manifested in a special way.

Comparison (Joseph vs. Judah):

- Joseph = always acknowledges that God was present with him wherever he went.
- Judah = lives his life as if God doesn't know or is present in his life.

Question: How do you live?

- Do you live like Joseph or Judah?

How did Joseph know?

- He relied heavily on what he heard from his father and grandfather from before.
 - How God rescued Abraham as well as Isaac and Jacob.
 - God's power had clearly been displayed in their lives.
 - Abraham was rescued from Pharaoh
 - Abraham was given a son in his old age.
- Joseph knows that God is always present and that he is part of the promise to Abraham and his descendants.

Truth:

- Usually when we lose God's manifest presence in our lives, it is not because God departed from us, it is because we have stopped believing in God and His promises that He is always with us and working for our eternal good.
- God is with us even in the hardest of circumstances.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- Never doubt His presence

II. GOD IS PRESENT WITH US IN OUR MORAL TEMPTATIONS. (v. 6-7)

Genesis 39:6b-7

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. 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.

How could Joseph withstood temptation?

- Reminded of key truths
 - He did not want to break his master's trust.

- "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.."
- He was aware of God's presence with him.
 - "How then can I do this...sin against God?"

The greatest motivation for holiness is remembering that God is with us.

- The times when we are most tempted to sin is when we think no one will see.

III. GOD IS WITH US EVEN IN OUR UNJUST SUFFERING (v.13-20)

Genesis 39:13-20

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.

Question: What happens when the outcome is not good despite your diligence and doing good?

Psalms 105:17-18

he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;

- The Egyptians bruised Joseph's feet with shackles and his neck was put in irons.
- Potiphar could have had Joseph killed but threw Joseph into prison to get rid of him.
- In prison, imagine Joseph wrestled much with what God was doing.
 - Hadn't God promised that He would someday be rewarded through his dreams?
 - What's the use for doing good?

Where is God when you really need Him?

- God is with us.(as He was with Joseph)
- God is with those who are unjustly suffering.

Genesis 16:6-7, 13 (Hagar)

But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur....So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

Genesis 26:24-25 (Isaac)

And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

IV. GOD IS WITH US IN OUR SEASON OF WAITING (v.21-23)

Genesis 39:21-23

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.

But the LORD was with Joseph

- Not mean that God granted Joseph supernatural success or strength.
- Meaning that Joseph was diligent in all his work with the truth that God was with him.

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Psalms 128:2

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

- If you work hard, you will reap the benefits of it. If not from people, you will from God.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

- In whatever work you do, do it diligently and do it as unto God. God will reward you.
- Consider the life of Joseph as he worked for years in the prison.
 - God has placed you where you are in His providence. He has you there for a reason (otherwise, in His power, it would be different).
 - God wants to use you for something you may not see at this time.
 - Ground your identity in Christ (not in your appearance or status).
 - God has gifts for all people and sees great value in all of them.
 - We are all at the same level at the foot of the cross.
 - Therefore, we ought to treat one another

APPLICATION

1. God's presence does not always change our circumstances but it changes how we endure them.

- Circumstances don't change but attitude changes.
- God is not a distant God but is present with you.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Matthew 28:20b

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Live your life before the presence of God.

Psalms 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

3. Trust that God is working even when you cannot see it.

- Even when we cannot see what God is doing, He is still at work.
 - Whether during your life or even after your life.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

God proved Himself faithful through what He did through Christ.

- Because of the resurrection of Christ, we know God's promises are true.

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.