

**BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Bible Study**  
**Dr. Darrell King, Presenter**

**Lecture VI**

**November 15, 2023**

**Forgiveness: A Key to Unlocking Your Divine Destiny**  
**Case Study: The Account of Joseph**  
**Ref: Genesis 37 – 50**  
**(Part 3)**

**LIVING IN THE AFTERMATH OF AN OFFENSE**

**Noteworthy Observations:**

Now that we have identified some of the indicators of an unforgiving heart, let us focus our attention on life after an offense. We all can probably agree that the severity of an offense can cause major implications in our daily lives. As discussed earlier, the depth of the hurt and/or pain brought on by an offense can have far-reaching ramifications that could be felt for years. This reality, although not wished for, does occur and begs the questions, “How am I supposed to deal with this?”, “How should I respond?”, “What should I do?”

In our case study, Genesis 37 provided us with some insight on how to objectively process an offense when it occurs in our lives by asking the simple question, “Did I in anyway contribute to the offense happening?” Additionally, Genesis 37 revealed to us several responses, or byproducts of an unforgiving heart, which we covered last week. However, now we find ourselves at a crossroad. We have objectively looked at the offense, assessed that we are not harboring any unforgiveness in our heart as a result of the offense, but the question remains, “how do we move on?”

In chapters 39 – 42, Joseph gives us a blueprint on how to continue to function in a godly manner while still trying to come to terms with the trauma, the hurt and the pain, brought on by an offense. We are aware that Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery for 20 pieces of silver. In chapter 39 things does not get any better for Joseph because he is sold into slavery again, but this time to Potipher, one of Pharaoh’s chief officials.

There is no doubt Joseph’s head is still spinning by the suddenness of everything that has happened to him, I am sure that his heart is still aching because of his brother’s heartless actions, and also because he is not sure if he will ever see his father again. Joseph’s world is reeling, but he does not lose his mind, he does not lash out in a fit of rage, he does not carry himself in a manner that betrays his faith. Joseph is able to keep it together because chapter 39:2 says that, “The Lord was with Joseph so he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.”

Joseph realized, as we should, that even when we are placed in an uncomfortable, inconvenient, or hurtful situation by hands other than our own, we must remember that God is still with us, and he’s more than able to keep us.

Joseph's focus remained on doing the right thing, living a godly life, even though it seemed that his life was spiraling out of control...just one bad situation after another.

Look at some things Joseph had to deal with in the midst of coming to terms with what his brothers had done to him:

Falsely accused:

- Potipher's wife tried to seduce him and when he resisted, she lied to her husband and said that Joseph tried to force himself on her

Ostracized:

- Being thrown in jail...again

Forgotten about:

- The chief cup bearer once he was released forgot to bring Joseph's name up before Pharaoh

Help those that wronged him:

- Came face-to-face with his brothers who mistreated him
- The ones who started this downward spiral in the first place

But Joseph withstood all of this. There is no telling how he must have felt going through the things he did. However, one thing is certain, Joseph was able to forge ahead and remain true to his faith and to his character because chapter 39:21 says the same thing about Joseph's predicament that chapter 39:2 said, "the Lord was with him..."

I believe Joseph assessed where he was, and even though he probably would have preferred not to have things unfold in his life the way they did, Joseph was content in knowing that God was with him...and since God was with him he knew he could endure whatever hardships came his way.

Instead of Joseph focusing on things that could have potentially make him bitter, I believe he decided to instead focus on what would make him better...that is taking note that God was with him.

Let us consider a few of these things:

- Instead of Joseph being sold to a labor camp...he was instead sold to an official of the house of Pharaoh – because God was with him
- Instead of being placed in the care of an abusive task master (he was a Hebrew in the land of Egypt)...Joseph was placed in charge of all of Potipher's house – because God was with him
- When accused of sexual assault by Potipher's wife, instead of being thrown into maximum security prison and placed on death's row...he was placed in general population where the warden soon placed him over all the inmates – because God was with him

Joseph continued his standard of godly living even when confronting challenge after challenge. He remained faithful and focused because when he surveyed his situation, he trusted the heart of God even when he could not see the hand of God.

So is it with us. As we navigate through our own individual hurts and pains brought on by something someone has done to us, we must not forget to maintain our faith to function just as Joseph did. When we do as Joseph did and survey the landscape of our lives, we can also conclude that we made it through some of the most hurtful times in our lives. Not because of our thirst for revenge, or to get even. We made it through, or perhaps we are able to function while still going through it simply because...God is with us!

So in conclusion, let us not allow an offense to cause us to walk contrary to the purpose and plan of God. As with Joseph, things may get worse before they get better. This is not necessarily a sign that God has forgotten you, abandoned you, or is indifferent to your situation. Every day you wake up, and as a function of your faith, you continue to move forward is an indication that God is with you...and he will never put more on you than you can bear.