

Bible Versions . . .

We're going to be using **ESV** & **NLT**

The **NLT** - is a Great **READING** Bible

I'd encourage you - **Get it** - **Read It** - (*especially devotional*)

To convey the **THOUGHT** of the original - I'll be using the **NLT**
For careful, essentially literal study, I'll be using the **ESV**

They actually read **VERY CLOSELY** to one another

I'm **very comfortable teaching** out of both - **Today** - **NLT**

If you are a **MAN** or a **WOMAN** (*or a child over 13*)

PLS - **GET** last week's message

We **left Joseph** 1st wk - in the midst of **SEXUAL TEMPTATION**

& He responded **perfectly** - *absolutely perfectly*

Potiphar's wife was demanding that Joseph **sleep** with her

& he says to her - at the end of **Gen 39:9** . . .

Gen 39:9B-10 - NLT

9 . . . How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

10 She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

I **can't go back** & re-teach last wk's msg . . .

But LOOK at this Great 2-STEP Temptation Success Plan

- 1) He **Refused**
- 2) He **kept out of her way** as much as possible

MAN - Way to go Joseph . . .

He's making **all the right choices** - Doing **all the right things**

We would think - **if ever** God was going to **really bless Joseph**
it would be **right now** - **RIGHT** ??

BUT - What if God has **A BIGGER PLAN** for Joseph . . .

What if **GOD HAS A BIGGER PLAN** - & *we just can't see it*

Let's Pray

I'd like you to **notice One Little Word** - (NLT - ***the 3rd word in V.11***)
Both the **ESV** & the **NKJ** - use the word - **BUT**

The **NLT** uses the word **my mother taught me** to use - **HOWEVER**
& The **However** - is **where** God's Bigger Plan - starts

Gen 39:11-12 - NLT

11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work.

12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

Man, Joseph is doing **everything RIGHT** - **isn't he ?**
Certainly God is **going to bless him** now . . . **right?**

Don't we have a tendency to kinda KEEP SCORE w/ God - THEN expect God to Bless us when we've racked up some points

& then - if we don't get what we think WE DESERVE . . .

We can easily get ANGRY

Angry at other people - & Angry at GOD

& **THAT** - is a huge mistake

& if we think we have the right
to dictate how things should work out in our lives

that means we think we have the right to be GOD

& there was a Guy named Lucifer who tried that
it didn't work out so well for him !!

& WE - should learn from HIS mistake !

Guys - We serve a Great & Merciful God

Who loves us more than we could ever know

Who is always at work for our ultimate GOOD . . .

& Who also has - A BIGGER PLAN

Joseph did what was right - In Perfect Form

& God was going to REWARD Him for it - ULTIMATELY

But first - God had a BIGGER PLAN

GOD - was about to Go To Work - for Joseph's GOOD -
Right in the middle of ANOTHER bad situation

Gen 39:13-18 - NLT

13 *When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled,*

14 *she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. "Look!" she said. "My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed.*

15 *When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me."*

16 *She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home.*

17 *Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said. [great translation there]*

18 *"But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!"*

Can you believe this woman would LIE
about an honorable man like Joseph ???

Mind boggling - isn't it ?

But not really that uncommon . . .

Her LUST had turned to RAGE

& now she's really going to make him pay . . .

& Joseph is about to PAY DEARLY - for doing what was RIGHT !

Gen 39:19-20 - NLT

19 *Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her.*

20 *So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained.*

WHOA !!!! - wait a minute - THAT'S ALL WRONG

It's **wrong** for Potiphars wife to **LIE** like that

It's **wrong** for Potiphar to **Believe** her

It's **wrong** for them to **Treat Joseph that way**

They're **wrong** - **wrong** - **wrong** - for **doing that TO ME . . .**

Have **you ever said** that ?

That's called a Temper-Tantrum

You've **done what's RIGHT** (at least you think you have)

& **THEY** did what was wrong - - - **& GOD LET THEM DO IT !!**

It was WRONG - & God **let them** do it !!!

Yep . . . *He sure did*

& **right then** - is when you think - **God** must be "**OFF THE JOB**"

*how could **he allow this** to happen to **ME** ??*

Especially when I was doing **WHAT WAS RIGHT !**

& **we** have a tendency to **say to God**

You know God** - I haven't done anything to **deserve this

I mean** - **I'm following Jesus** . . . I'm trying to **be like Jesus

*oh, really . . . do you **REALLY** want to be like Jesus ? . . .*

OK -- -- In **Mat 10:24** **Jesus Himself** says

→ →

MAT 10:24-25 - ESV

24 *“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.*

25 *It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*

How can we say we want to follow Christ
& then say God should make everything **FAIR** for us

How can we say we want to follow Christ
except for the part where the people **MISTREATED** Him

Please hear me - God has a **BIGGER PLAN**
than just making everything **FAIR** - in **YOUR EYES** !

God has a **BIGGER PLAN**
than just making your Circumstances **Peachy Keen**

When they **Maligned Jesus** - God had a bigger plan

When they **Spoke Lies about Jesus** - God had a bigger plan

When they **Crucified Jesus** - GOD HAD A BIGGER PLAN !!!

& **Right Now** - in Your Circumstances - **God has a Bigger Plan !**

God is **AT WORK** (right now) - in your **UNFAIR** circumstances
& He has a bigger plan - that you **can't even imagine**

The Only Question is . . .

Are you going to **JOIN HIM** *in His Bigger Plan*

Are you going to **FIGHT HIM** *every step of the way ?*

Joseph had done **what was right**
& God **still allowed** him to be **mistreated**

Mistreated by circumstances - *becoming a slave*
(*& he made the most of that*)

Mistreated by Sexual harassment
(*& he handled that perfectly*)

Mistreated by False Accusation
(*& winds up - UNJUSTLY - in Prison*)

AND - - we never see Joseph - Stand Up in his own DEFENSE

He NEVER **Retaliates**

He NEVER **Threatens**

He NEVER **Responds** in "**Like-Kind**" to what's being done to him

Without knowing it - Joseph was **acting like Jesus** -
BEFORE Jesus was physically on the earth (***TYPE of Christ***)

But how about you & me

We **HAVE** Jesus as our example to follow

Joseph was **Like Christ in Advance**

How are we doing - **with Christ** as our **ACTUAL** example

1Pet 2:20-23 - NLT

20 Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten

revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

Jesus Christ is our example, & we must follow in his steps

WHY ?? - Because God has a Bigger Plan

& sometime we cry out - WHAT HAVE I DONE to deserve this ?

**Sometimes we think God must be punishing us
with the circumstances we're in**

But God says in Psa 103:10-14 - NLT

10 He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

11 For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

13 The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

14 For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.

**He knows How weak we are, He knows we are only dust
He's like a Father to us, tender and compassionate**

So then - - WHY God - - WHY ? ? ?

**WHY have you allowed this in my life ??
& WHY Aren't you Fixing it ??**

& God answers us - in Isa 55:8-9 - NLT

**8 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.
“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.
9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways
are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your
thoughts.**

God is **AT WORK**

He is doing **Something GOOD** in your life !

& He **has a BIGGER Plan** . . .

Do you believe that about God ??

IF you believe Him -

You can **JOIN HIM** in the **BIGGER PLAN** He has
(even tho **you can't see** His plan)

IF you Don't Believe Him

You can **FIGHT HIM** the whole way
(kicking & screaming & demanding your own way)

Are you **Joining Him** or **Fighting Him** ??

OK - we **left Joseph** . . . back in **Gen 39:19**

Gen 39:19-20 - NLT

**19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about
how Joseph had treated her.
20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the
king's prisoners were held, and there he remained.**

Joseph is **BACK** in the **PIT** - this time a dungeon pit
& **WHERE was God ???**

Isn't that what **we'd say** . . . ***Oh God, where are You ???***
but the **next Vs.** tells us **exactly** **where God was**

Gen 39:21

21 But the Lord was with Joseph . . .

We've been **Conditioned** by our **Culture** to think . . .

only when everything is **just RIGHT**
THAT'S when God is with us

But **the Bible** paints a **very different** picture here

Joseph has gone thru **terrible mistreatment**
& **ended up** in the **Pit** for the **SECOND TIME**

& **God's Word** says very clearly
But the Lord was with Joseph . . .

When was the last time you said to a brother;

*Man - you did what's Right - & you got slandered & wrongly
sentenced to Prison - Man **God is really with you** ISN'T HE ??*

That's **NOT** what we **WOULD** say - But it is what we **SHOULD** say !

The Lord is with you . . . & He has a BIGGER PLAN !!

The Lord was **WITH Joseph**
He was at Work **For Joseph's GOOD**
& He had a **BIGGER Plan**

& we **see God at work** - for Joseph's good - **Right Here** in **Vs.21**

Gen 39:21 - NLT

21 But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love [mercy]. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite [gave him favor] *with the prison warden.*

What more could we ask God for

The Lord was **With Joseph**
He showed him His **Faithful Love** (mercy)
He gave him **Favor** with the Warden

Is there something more than **these 3 things**
that ***we would ask God for ???***

YEAH - *How about getting Me Out of This PRISON !*

You mean the Lord **being with you**
showing you **His faithful Love**
& Giving you **His Favor** - **ISN'T ENOUGH ???**

IT IS ENOUGH guys - - **IT IS ENOUGH**

The question is - Are you going to **JOIN GOD**
in the **Bigger Plan** that He has

OR - Are you going to **FIGHT GOD**
& **take yourself out of the game**

So - **maybe today** You would say - ***How do I JOIN GOD ??***

We Join God - - by doing **the same thing** that **Joseph** did

We do **WHAT'S RIGHT** - **REGARDLESS** of the Circumstances

In Joseph's Life - we see both;

- 1) The **Miracle** of God's **Sovereignty** - &
- 2) The **Requirement** of our **Responsibility**

& I pray we see this "Double-Edged" truth here

- 1) God is **AT WORK**
- 2) We must **JOIN HIM** in what He's doing

& at the end of **Ch 39**

we **AGAIN** see Joseph **JOIN** God - in God's **BIGGER PLAN**

Gen 39:21-23 - NLT

21 But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love [khehsed]. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.

THIS - was God **AT WORK** - Now comes Joseph's part . . .

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

Wait a minute

This is the **same thing** God did **for Joseph** - in Potiphars house
The Lord was with him - showed him mercy & favor

AND - this is the **SAME THING** Joseph did **for God**-in Potiphars house
whatever he DID - the Lord made to prosper

This brings up a **HUGE QUESTION** to me . . .

WHY did Joseph **have to go thru the same trial AGAIN**

WHY - WHY GOD !!! - Why do I have to go thru this **again** ???

& the Lord **ANSWERS YOU** . . .

This morning - God will give you the answer you need !!

Isa 55:8-9 - NLT

**8 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.
“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.
9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways
are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your
thoughts.**

That **IS** God's Answer

We may not like it - ***BUT IT IS The Answer We Get***

You see . . .

The WHY question **we CAN'T know** the answer to
Because God's ways are higher than ours

The WHAT question **we CAN know** the answer to
because THAT is our responsibility

The WHAT question is

WHAT was Joseph **supposed to do** ??

& the answer

is the **same as the last time** he **found himself** in this situation

& we find the **truth** learned from Joseph's actions - in the **N.T.**

Col 3:17 - ESV

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The phrase "In The Name Of" - means;
in accordance with the nature & character of

& that's exactly what Joseph did !

Everything he did - he did
in accordance with the nature & character of **Jesus Christ**

& God made him PROSPER - Even Wrongly Accused & in Prison

God is **AT WORK** - (*right now, in your situation*)

He has a **BIGGER PLAN** - (*that you can't see or understand*)

You Must **JOIN HIM** - (*by doing what's right, **in the name of Jesus,** regardless of your circumstances*)

Let's Pray