

**S030116a – 05/24/26**  
**“All Things Are Against Me?”**  
**Genesis 42:36**

**Introduction – Read Genesis 42:36**

- Now this Wednesday Night we are going to get into the second study about the life of Joseph

**He is now second in command over all of Egypt**

- And his brothers come to him to get food, but they don't recognize him and he begins to test them to see if 22 years later they are still the mean old brothers he knew when he was 17

- Now why he tests them and why they don't recognize that this is their brother, we will talk about  
Wednesday Night

- Then finally on Wednesday we will get to see how the nation of Israel comes to live in Egypt, where, as most of you know they will spend the next 400 years as slaves, but their stay in Egypt doesn't start that way and there is so much for us to learn in that important truth

- Hope you can be with us this Wednesday Night

**But this morning I want to draw your attention to chapter 42 and verse 36**

- And before we get into that one verse, I want to give you some context and background, so you understand what provokes and inspires Jacob to make such a statement

**Things have been pretty bad since Jacob left Bethel, the house of God as we looked at three Sundays ago**

- The first thing that happens is his wife dies, followed by the death of his father

- And this loss in Jacob's life of the wife he loved strengthened his love for their first-born son, Joseph

**And as we read and studied last Wednesday night – Jacob favored him and made him ruler over his brothers**

**Now this and Joseph's dreams he kept having about his brothers and father bowing down before him, pushed his brothers already hatred of him over the edge**

- They planned on killing him, but instead sold him as a slave

**Now of course Jacob doesn't know this because they bring their dad Joseph's coat all ripped up and covered in goat's blood**

- And in those days of course there were no DNA tests back then and so the ruse worked – their father thought Joseph had been torn to pieces by a wild animal

**So Jacob goes into years of grieving and as he is grieving weather patterns change and a horrific famine hits the area**

- And Jacob realizes if I don't do something my entire family is going to starve
  - And he has heard traveling caravans say that there is food in Egypt, the number two guy in Egypt had come up with a plan to save food in the 7 years of plenty and now it is for sell in the famine
- And so Jacob tells 10 of what he thinks is his 11 remaining boys you go to Egypt and buy food for us so we can live
  - He doesn't let Benjamin, the youngest son go because he is the only remaining son in his mind of his favorite wife Rachel
  - I personally I wonder if somewhere deep inside, Jacob wondered what really happened to Joseph and doesn't trust those other boys with Benjamin

**So Jacob sends 10 of his sons to Egypt to buy food from this number two guy running things in country there**

- But as the brothers come before this man, the man who is Joseph realizes these are my brothers, these are the one who sold me into slavery

**And Joseph does not reveal at first who he is, and they don't recognize him and again why – we will see this Wednesday night**

- But Joseph speaks harshly to these brothers, not because he is angry with them as we will learn later in the story, but really to test them, to see what is going on in their hearts 22 years after they threw him in that pit

**And Joseph asks about the brother's family, because even though they don't know it, it is his family – and they tell him, their father is still alive, one brother is dead (which I find so ironic that they are lying to Joseph about him) – and then they say they have one little brother at home**

- Well Benjamin is Joseph only full blood brother, and so Joseph accuses them of being spies and says the only way they can prove their innocence and validate their story is to bring Benjamin back with them to Egypt
  - And as collateral, Joseph holds onto Simeon, the second oldest brother, until the brothers return

**So they go back to their father and they tell him, the second in command over Egypt is a crazy man, he accused us of being spies and then said the only to prove our innocence was to bring Benjamin to him**

- And this crazy man also kept Simeon, your son, Jacob, as collateral in prison until we return
  - And so for Jacob, his favorite wife is dead, his father is dead, his favorite son is dead, another son is in prison being held captive by a maniac in Egypt and if he ever wants food from the maniac again, he had to let Benjamin go see the crazy man in Egypt – oh yeah and all the while nothing is growing in his fields.
- And this causes Jacob to say – what I want us to consider this morning in Genesis 42:36 where Jacob says, “All things are against me”

**And as I was considering the section we are studying this week as a church, I felt this one verse was a place that the Lord wanted us to camp out at**

- The reason is we, you, me, all of us, at times in our lives, we have felt this way

- We look around at the circumstances of our lives

**And the circumstances are painful, they don't make any sense. and it seems like one thing after another is just going sideways**

- And so often like Jacob, even though we know the Bible says that God is good and He loves us – we know it says that, but the circumstances of my life are preaching a different sermon

- So I, you, us, we all have a tendency like Jacob to forget what the Word of God says, to forget what we know about the character of God and His feelings toward us and we say

- “All things are against me!”

**But here is the problem, the same Bible that tells us about the character of God, and the fact He loves us and is for us, also tells us that often what we think we know, what we think we know for sure, is often not true at all**

- God says though the prophet Isaiah...

**“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’ ”**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

- God says you think you have it figured out – you think you understand everything – you don't

- Next year we are going to study the book of Job and the last 4 chapters God asks Job 77 questions in four chapters basically saying to them...

**“Job you and your friends have been questioning Me and My ways for 36 chapters, so I have a few questions for you – where were you when the earth was founded, do you understand how it sits in space? – you just start answering Job whenever you feel like you can counsel Me**

➤ It’s a great section, can’t wait to get there

**But the point is – there are so many things that we would grit our teeth and say “I know”, “I Know this to be true”**

➤ And God would say to you and me lovingly – No you don’t!

○ The Bible says we see through a glass dimly in I Corinthians 13 – we don’t really know what we think we know

**There was a book written a few years ago by Paul Kirchner called – “Everything you know is wrong.” (Picture)**

➤ And I love some of the facts in the book

**Most people have heard of the Dark side of the moon**

➤ The side of the moon we never get to see that is shrouded in darkness

○ **Dark side of the moon**

➤ Well that is actually not true – it is true that we only see one side of the moon, but the only time that side of the moon is dark is when we have a full moon from our perspective, the rest of the time, when we have a quarter moon, 3 quarters of the other side is lit up, when we have a new moon, the other side is completely lit up – so there is no dark side of the moon

**Or how about this one? – 98% of people believe that if you are on death row, your life expectancy goes down – which would make sense but it not true**

➤ When you understand that it takes years of trials and retrials to get someone to the point where the state will put them to death and you compare that to criminals who are never caught and on the street, the life expectancy on death row is actually 10 times that of a criminal on the streets - So if you are for life – you need to be for the death penalty as well – Jk – you don’t need to email me

## **How about this one – Everyone knows that a dog year is equivalent to seven human years**

➤ So if your dog, like mine is 13, she is really 91 years old  
But at least 10 dog breeds can live 20 years or more (including Maltese poodles – yes!!!!) – 20 years, 140 years? - So my dog isn't 91, she is 48, she is my age and that would fit because I can tell her back hurts, just like mine!

## **Or how about this one - Everyone knows that we only use 6% of our brains, except for guys like Albert Einstein who used like 10 percent of his brain, well...**

➤ Consider this quote by Neurologist Barry Gordon  
**“Though an alluring idea, the "10 percent myth" is so wrong it is almost laughable.” - Neurologist Barry Gordon at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore**

- So I know some of you think that wow, I have so much untapped potential in my brain, that if I can just get to it...
  - No you don't
  - You are using all of it right now – that is all you got friends, I hate to be the bearer of bad news this morning

## **Another one, everyone knows - Moths eat holes in your clothes**

- We have been told if you get some moths in your closet, they are going to eat holes in your clothes
  - Totally untrue!
- Most moths don't even have mouths – check me on that – If I'm lying, I'm dying
  - Adult moths don't live long enough to worry about eating, all they do is mate and have baby moths
- In the wild, moths lay their moth babies in the fur of dead animals and their babies, the larva in order to grow up and be adult mouths eat their way out

## **Moth Larva – that is the real culprit right there**

- The larva eat their way out and then they lose their mouths, they mate and start the process all over again

Larva eat your clothes – aren't you glad to come to church today?  
**One more, my personal favorite, although I like the larva one, but my personal favorite is everyone knows Napoleon was short – not really true at all**

### **Picture of Napoleon**

**He is listed at his death as 5, 2, however that is in French units that aren't unused anymore today, in modern international units, 5 2 is the exact same as 5 7 today (which is what I am by the way)**

- Now you say – Pastor maybe no one has told you this, but you are short – I get it, in American today I certainly am

**However, the average height of Frenchman in Napoleon's day was 5 foot five**

- In fact, you had to be at least 4 10 to join the French army in Napoleon's day and over 50 percent of the adult male population of France in the day did not qualify, they weren't even 4 10
  - Many believe the falsehood started with his enemy the British who painted pictures of him as tiny and because Napoleon surrounded himself with really tall body guards and earned the nickname because of it "the Little Corporal" – amazing!

**Why am I going through all these things today? – because they are fun and church should be fun, but that is not the only reason**

- It is to show you that what so often we think we know, oh we know for sure there is a dark side of the moon, I mean Pink Floyd wrote the song – we know for sure we only use 6 percent of our brains, we know Napoleon was short – no you don't – you don't know what you think you know
  - And what is true in science and historical terms, I believe is even more true in spiritual things because we have an enemy that lies to us about the character of God

**So we think we know God is being unfair to us, we think we know that these circumstances are unloving in my life**

- We think we know
  - But listen to me church, because I love you – you don't know!

**If fact Paul in the New Testament tells us in the world where we think we know all this stuff and we don't – there is actually one thing we can know for sure....**

**“And we know, that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” - Romans 8:28**

**The term “work together” is the Greek word *sunergo*, where we get our English word “synergism”. It means “the product of two things put together and becomes greater and even completely different than they were separate.”**

A classic example would be when you take sodium and chlorine. You don't want to eat those by themselves, they are both poisons. But if you synergize them together you get sodium chloride or table salt, which is umm, good

- And that is what Paul says we can know
  - That God takes all things
  - And please notice, the Romans 8:28 doesn't say all things are good

**I really get tired after a school shooting, after every horrible attack, the News crews always seem to find some “Christian” and they say something like – “this is what God wanted, it is good in His eyes” - No it's not!**

- Murder is never good in God's eye
  - Death isn't good – God calls it the enemy
  - Sickness isn't good
  - Abuse isn't good – those are all evil things

**Romans 8:28 doesn't say that all things are good – people say the loss of that child, oh that was good, no it wasn't**

- But what Romans 8:28 does say it that God will take all the things in your life – the good, the bad, the ugly, the sinful
  - And He will synergize them together, and He will work them together for good in your life

**Paul is getting you and I to see that this is the way the Lord works**

- But then some would ask - why does He do it this way, instead of just giving us good things?
  - I mean, He is God, He could have just made everything work out every time in my life
- And you are right He could have
  - Yet He is always good and always has our best interest in mind, so there has to be something else going on when we experience things that are hard

**And to see it, let's back off us for just a minute, and see the truth in Joseph's life**

- Why did Joseph go through all He did?
  - Why was Jacob going through all the turmoil that he was?
  - And more importantly for us, let's be honest, why are we going through all that we are going through?
- Write down these things that will also be on the screen

**Why does God allow pain in our lives???**

**#1 – God is working out your physical location**

- for Joseph, the pit led to the prison, which led to the palace
  - a place he would have never been anywhere near if he had lived the good life with his father in Hebron
- For Jacob, the years of disappointment were taking him closer to his son, not further away

## **God does the same thing in all of us – He is working out your physical location**

- for me – I questioned a lot over the last 3 or 4 years why my wife was getting sicker and sicker in the desert. I loved pastoring the Garden Fellowship – it was a great church with almost 5,000 people attending – and I tried to hang onto it for two years. I moved my wife and kids out here and drove back and forth, just trying to hang out to the church I loved to pastor, and I just kept wondering why God never healed my wife – and leaving the Garden, I had no idea what God was going to do, it seemed like the end of everything for me ministry wise. But then the door opened up here
  - and I remember the first time I left this place as the youth pastor, God told me as I set right over there, I will bring you back here some day
  - I was so blessed, because it was true, I loved pastoring the people, I loved pastor the Garden Fellowship for 10 years, but this is my home and I am so glad God has kept His promises to me

## **And yet God got me here through very difficult trials and struggles and heartache**

- And so often in those times we start to question – “why God, why are you against me?”
  - And then He does what He was intending to do all along and you go – Wow – God is so good
- And the truth is, yes He is, all the time, whether you see right now or not - Who He is never changes

## **Why does God allow pain in our lives???**

### **#1 – God is working out your physical location**

### **#2 – God is working on who you are spiritually**

- Joseph would not have been the ruler he was without the years of pain and preparation
  - Moses needed 40 years in the wilderness to make him the great deliver

**David needed 17 years of being hunted through the wilderness by Saul, before he could be the King, Israel needed him to be**

- And you and I need years of preparation for what God is doing in our lives

**The things we go through in our lives shape who we need to be for what God has for us in the season that is ahead - I have learned lessons in every season of my life, but specifically the harder ones and as you know, God never wastes a lesson, He uses it to make me who I need to be for the season that is right around the corner**

- That is what I know right now, it's hard, but God is good and He won't waste this lesson

**And when the corner comes everything clicks**

- Jacob who right now is saying, "Everything is against me!!!!"
  - Soon he will realize when he hears "Joseph is alive" – it will click for him – that is why this happened, that is why that took place – I get it!
- For Joseph – when he gets before Pharaoh and interprets the dream, thinking maybe I will get to go home now and I will get to see my Dad, all of a sudden hears – you are the man to rule
  - It clicked – that is why I had to be in the pit, that is why even when I laid around and wondered where God was, He was there, preparing me for something I could not imagine - I get it, it clicked

**Now you might say, - Jason I hear you – but here is my reality – I am not going to rule Egypt, nor even be a pastor like you - I'm just a housewife trying to get by. I just work down at the local store, trying to provide for my family**

- and I hear what you're saying about David, Moses, Joseph, and even you
  - but that's not my lot in life

**I am not going to be the deliver for a group of people, I am not going to be King, I'm not even going to be a pastor like you**

- And so what I am saying is that the pain might be worth it in the end for someone like you – but I don't really see the value, I don't see why I have to face such things as I do – when God isn't going to make me a king or a minister..
  - Oh friends see this last thing and then we will be done...

**Why does God allow pain in our lives???**

**#1 – God is working out your physical location**

**#2 – God is working on who you are spiritually**

**#3 – God is working toward what you will do eternally**

**You see you have an eternal destiny**

- do you remember Matthew 25 where the faithful stewards come before the Lord and Jesus says, “you have been faithful over a few things.” I will make you ruler over many”
  - I believe that was not a parable, that was a picture of what heaven will be like

**In Revelation 20:6, it says speaking about us, “they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” – Revelation 20:6**

- You are going to rule and reign with Christ
  - The trials you face certainly produce valuable things for this life
  - But I want you to consider that there is more to it than that – there are more things being considered, there is more taking place
- And how you and I respond is huge

**Jacob, here in our text cries out “all things are against me”**

- and notice God calls him Jacob

**So what??? – well his name had been changed from Jacob, deceiver, always taking things on in the flesh, to Israel – governed by God**

- so why is God calling him by his old name?
  - Because that is how Jacob is behaving

**Instead of being like Israel – I know all things work together for good, to those who love God**

- He was acting like Jacob – governed by his emotions and feelings
  - Not Israel – governed by God

**And we can understand what Jacob is feeling – we have all been there**

- but friends here is the reality – all things were not against him
  - actually everything was working out in his favor

**His son Joseph was not dead**

- In fact, God has raised him up to be a ruler over Egypt
  - Simeon was not dead – it was his brother holding him captive, not some strange ruler

**Benjamin was not going to be killed**

- If there was anyone who loved Benny as much as dear old dad, it was his full brother Joseph

**And even the famine**

- why, when I'm serving God does everything seem to crash in around me???
  - "Why have we been hit with a huge famine" Jacob may have thought
- Oh – but it is the famine that gave the opportunity for his son to become a ruler
  - It was the famine that sent the brothers to Joseph which sets this whole thing in motion
- It was the famine – that will create the need for Jacob to move his entire family to Egypt because that is where they can be safe, provided for – and multiply to a nation of almost 2 million when the book of Exodus opens

**Everything is actually for you Jacob and Friends, this is not just true for Jacob, or Joseph**

- it is true for you and me as well
  - there are many things we don't know, even things we think we know (don't tell me about the larva again, please) – I won't, but we don't – so much we don't know
- But there is something we can know for sure – and that is God loves us and He is working all things out for good in our lives – so trust Him, cling to Him and let Him do what He is trying to do in you and through you
  - Amen? Amen!