

The With-God Journey

Date: February 26, 2023

Pastor Dave Ripper

Title: When Life Gives You What You Don't Want

Text: Genesis 37-50

Description: What do you do when life gives you what you don't want? If you look at things from a human perspective, you might fall into despair. But if you see things with a God's eye view, you might find a reason to have hope and press on. This week as we continue our series, The With-God Journey, we'll discover through Joseph's life (yeah, the guy with the amazing technicolor dreamcoat) how to live by faith—no matter what

Small Group Questions

1. Throughout our series, The With-God Journey, we've met many men and women who show us how not to live a with-God life. Their negative examples can show us how to more positively follow the way of Jesus. Joseph's life, however, is a shining example of living life with God. From what you know of Joseph's story, what do you admire most about how he lived with God, and how God remained faithful to Joseph?
2. Read Genesis 39:1-6, 20-23. Where do you discover the theme of "the with-God life" in Joseph's story? In what ways did Joseph live a with-God life? What might have been some of his core spiritual practices?
3. In Pastor Dave's sermon, he said, "In contrast to the average person, I think Joseph was able to live with a God's Eye View of Life, instead of merely a human perspective. In other words, he didn't simply look at his circumstances from his viewpoint, he attempted to look at his situation from God's perspective. I believe if we want to live life with God, and become aware that God is with us, then we must learn to live with a God's eye view as well." How did Joseph have a God's eye perspective on his daily work? (Read Colossians 3:23-24 to help answer this question.)
4. Read Genesis 39:6-20. How did Joseph maintain a God's eye view on temptation?
5. Joseph's life was filled with many unexpected, unwanted circumstances. Read Genesis 45:1-8, 12-15, and Genesis 50:20. How does Joseph maintain a God's eye view on the trials and disappointments of his life?
6. Read Romans 8:28. How is Joseph's life an example of the truth of this passage? How have you seen Romans 8:28 prove to be true in your life?

7. In The Life with God Bible, Joseph's life is connected to the fourteenth-century saint, Julian of Norwich. She authored the first book written in English called, Revelations of Divine Love. It was written in a time of social unrest and death by the Black Plague. She herself nearly died at the age of 30. Reflect on her words related to God's goodness, which can be found even amidst the worst circumstances.

"Just as our flesh is covered by clothing, and our blood is covered by our flesh, so are we, soul and body, covered and enclosed by the goodness of God. Yet the clothing and the flesh will pass away, but the goodness of God will always remain and will remain closer to us than our own flesh."

"All shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

How might these words offer you comfort and hope today?

8. Close by praying for one another, our church, and the pressing needs of our community and world. Consider praying this prayer by Julian of Norwich: "And lovingly I pray to thee O' God, by your goodness give me yourself, for you are enough for me."

Pastor Tommy Riley

Title: Contentment when you haven't found the end of your story.

Text: Genesis 37-45; 47, 50

Description: No doubt about it, life is just jammed packed full of highs and lows. Join us this week as we look at how to strive for contentment even in the dips we experience in life.

1. What circumstances keep you from feeling God is with you?
2. What helps you realize God's presents?
3. What are some ways you practice the presents of God in your life?
4. Have you ever found yourself in a moral desert? (Moral Desert: the condition of being deserving of something, whether good or bad) I did something good; therefore, I deserve something good to happen to me.
5. Why is it difficult to find contentment during difficult times in life?
6. Do you consider at your core that God is good? Do you believe that God is always good to you? How do you reconcile God's goodness when bad things happen to you?