

**When God is with You**  
Genesis 39:1-23  
*Halifax: 13 November 2016, 10:30 AM*

**Introduction**

In our sermon series in Genesis, we have seen how Joseph was violently and cruelly seized by his own brothers because of unjust envy.

- He was coming to minister to them, sent by his father, and as soon as they saw him coming, they so boiled with envy that they conspired to kill him.
  - It was only through Reuben's interference that they agreed to leave him in a pit to die a slow death rather than directly slaying him...
    - But then they saw a caravan of merchants headed for Egypt and realised that they could sell their brother and make a profit.
    - And so sell him they did and off to Egypt Joseph went, most likely in very unpleasant circumstances—most likely in chains—and he was only in his seventeenth year (what we would call sixteen years old).

Last week when we came to Genesis 38, we were left in suspense as to how Joseph was getting along in Egypt...

- The spotlight was turned upon Joseph's brother Judah, the one through whose seed the Messiah was to come...
  - And we saw the great wickedness of Judah as he voluntarily left his family (unlike Joseph who was taken by force) to keep company with wicked Canaanites...
    - And how he married a Canaanite, showing his disregard for the special promises of God to his family...
    - And how he brought forth sons that were so wicked that God killed them—it looked as if this man would not be able to bring forth the son of promise.
- But we saw how God was, as it were, with Judah...not because Judah was upright, but because he was chosen by God for salvation.
  - God so worked in Judah's life that he ended up being greatly humbled so that that he confessed his wickedness...
    - And we concluded that this was a real repentance because of the fruit that is found in Judah's life.
      - This once wicked and selfish man became the man who offered himself to be punished in place of his brother Benjamin!
    - And we saw how the LORD, who had refused to bring forth the heir of the covenant through Judah's wicked sons,
      - marvellously brought forth Perez, the son of promise, by Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law, and Judah.
      - The details are beyond the scope of this review, but what an amazing act of grace it was—
        - Truly God was with Judah both to totally transform him and to bring forth the promised heir of the covenant.

And now, today, as we come to chapter 39, we return to Joseph, a young man that God's grace had already transformed from his youth.

- In those that God has chosen for salvation, there are some who are called from their earliest days; and others who are called later in life.
  - Judah was wicked, but came to know the LORD when he was older—old enough to be grandfather...while Joseph knew the LORD from his youth.
  - In both cases it was all of God's grace—
    - God was with Judah to bring him to repentance,
      - and He was with Joseph to enable him to live a very godly life as the one He had chosen to be Old Testament portrait of Jesus Christ.
    - You can see how very much Joseph models Christ...
      - He was sent far from the comforts of his father's house in order to save the world from famine.
      - He came from his home to Egypt (the world) not as a king but as a lowly servant, but as a servant he was a blessing to all and though he as tempted, he did not sin.
      - Nevertheless, he as unjustly accused and cast into prison, only to be raised up to rule at the right hand of the majesty where he provided bread for a starving world.
- And today in our text, we get to see Joseph as a lowly servant in Egypt.
  - We get to see how God was with him in this time of his servitude so that he is a blessing to all and is kept from sin, yet rejected unjustly.
  - He is so much like Jesus, and it gives us hope to earnestly seek the Lord that He might be with us as He was with Joseph.
    - We see what God's grace can do and we see Jesus through Joseph!

Listen as I read this marvellous account to you.

- The reading begins in Genesis 39, verse 1 and runs to the end of the chapter.
- Here is the Word of the living God.

**Genesis 39:1-23:** Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. <sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. <sup>3</sup> And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority. <sup>5</sup> So it was, from the time *that* he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the

blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. <sup>6</sup> Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. <sup>7</sup> And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. <sup>9</sup> *There is* no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup> So it was, as she spoke to Joseph

day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her *or* to be with her. 11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house *was* inside, 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. 13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, 14 that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, “See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. 15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.” 16 So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. 17 Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, “The Hebrew servant

whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; 18 so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside.” 19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, “Your servant did to me after this manner,” that his anger was aroused. 20 Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners *were* confined. And he was there in the prison. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 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.

May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and now to the preaching of His Word.

Did you notice in the reading how it kept highlighting the fact that the LORD was with Joseph!

- Verse 2 says that He was with Joseph, and verse 3 says that Potiphar could tell that the LORD was with Joseph...
- And then in verse 21, after Joseph had been cast into prison, it again says, “but the LORD was with Joseph...”
  - And this is repeated again in verse 23 where it explains that “the LORD was with him.”

It is obvious that we are meant to notice that the thing that explains how Joseph lived the way he did was that God was with him.

- So this morning I want to encourage you by showing you what happens when God is with you.

## **I. First of all, when God is with you, He makes you a blessing to others.**

A. See how much this was the case with Joseph, very much as it was with Christ.

1. First of all, Joseph was a blessing to his father Jacob when he lived with him.
  - a. We have seen how his father trusted him, and how Joseph was greatly beloved of his father—just as the Son of God was beloved by God the Father from eternity.
    - He was a delight to have around the house, always a great blessing.
  - b. You may remember that one of the great blessings that was promised to Abraham was that he and his seed would be a blessing to others.
    - That is something that God does for us as His people—He gives us a heart to serve others, and He enables us to serve them well—to be a blessing to them.
      - Isn’t that a marvellous gift of grace?

- So Joseph had been a blessing in his father's house...
2. And now we see that he is still a blessing to the people around them even as a lowly slave.
    - a. Being cut off from his family with such injustice and cruelty as he was...
      - being cut off from his father and from all the comforts and even luxuries that he had enjoyed there,
      - you might have expected that Joseph would have been sullen and dejected in Egypt—seeing his work as miserable toil and chafing under it—driven along by his master.
    - b. But instead, the narrative is very clear that because God was with him, Joseph was a great blessing to Potiphar his master.
      - 1) He would have probably started out as a field slave, seeing how he was a foreigner and did not know the language and customs of Egypt.
        - But very quickly, because Joseph served Potiphar, and because the Lord was with him, he found favour in Potiphar's eyes.
      - 2) We are told that Joseph was promoted to the status not only of a house slave, but as the overseer of the whole house and of all that Potiphar had!
        - Potiphar was a man of high rank, and he trusted Joseph so much that he made him his personal assistant—
          - Joseph had access to and authority over everything except that Potiphar continued to choose what food he would eat.
          - Joseph was so reliable and so faithful that Potiphar did not even have to oversee what Joseph did.
            - You get the impression that he came to realise that Joseph would manage things better than he could manage them himself.
        - 3) What a blessing it must have been to have a servant like that!
          - One with such ability, yet with such loyalty and integrity.
          - Potiphar did not have to worry about a thing as long as Joseph was in charge.
          - And all of this, I remind you, was because God was with Joseph so that all he did prospered.
3. And if we look ahead to verse 19-23, we see that Joseph's character of faithful service went with him even when he was unjustly put in prison.
  - a. Surely, being wrongly put in prison, he would be dejected and downcast—
    - but no!
    - Joseph is still the same person with the same God and with the same character...
      - He who was a blessing to his father at home was also, for God, a blessing to his master as a slave;
      - and he who was a blessing to his master as a slave is also a blessing the prison warden.

- b. This is all because God was with Joseph...
  - Like Potiphar, the prison keeper saw this and put Joseph in charge of everything and did not have to worry about it...
    - Joseph did a better job running the place than the prison keeper himself could have done.
    - Everything he put into Joseph's hands prospered.
- c. Joseph was so like Jesus who left His father's house and came to us as a lowly servant...
  - And when He did, He went about everywhere doing good.
  - What a blessing He was as He walked among us, healing our diseases, teaching us, serving us, counseling us...
    - He came to serve, to be a blessing, and not be served.
      - And God was with Him and made Him a blessing—ultimately, even that He died on the cross to atone for our sins!

## B. What about you?

1. Are you in Christ?
  - Have you come to Him for His salvation?
  - a. Do you know that in His covenant He promises to make you a blessing to others? to fill you with love and fruit? to make you a servant?
    - That is one of the greatest of His promises—that we can love people and serve them—something sin keeps us from being able to do!
  - b. I do not mean to say that we will all have the super gifts that Joseph had so that we can run everything—
    - God has special service for Joseph to do...
    - But I mean that you can be a great blessing to others, a person who truly loves them and cares for them and who is committed to their best interests.
2. Do you want to be a blessing? If God is with you, you do want this!
  - a. You want to be a blessing in your home—as a mother to your children, as a husband to your wife, as a father, as a son or a daughter, as a brother or sister.
    - You know that you are there, not to be served, but to serve, as Jesus did.
    - You are there to live not for yourself, but for Him who died and rose again for you.
      - And as you seek to be a blessing, He will enable you to do it!
  - b. And so at work—
    - As a business owner or manager, you want to be blessing to those under your care...and to your clients.
    - And as a subordinate, you want to be a blessing to the company you work for and to all your bosses—
      - you want them to be able to leave things with you and know that you will have their best interests at heart.
    - And you want to be a blessing to your peers—to help them out and to go the extra mile for them...to pour yourself out for them in faithful service.

- c. And so at church—
  - God has gifted you and given you opportunities—and you want to be blessing to all the other members...
    - to be an encouragement to the elders and to be an example to all your brothers and sisters—to be someone that truly cares for them—
  - And you want to be someone who points others to our gracious heavenly Father to see His glory and His love, to rest in His promises and to rest in Jesus His Son, to know Him and to understand His will...
    - “O Lord,” you pray, “make me a blessing!”
- d. And so in your neighbourhood, in your community, in the marketplace,
  - wherever you go, it is your great privilege to be a blessing because God is with you.

TRANS> Do not continue to live in forgetfulness of this, for that is to live far below your calling.

- I am ashamed to say that I have done so...but I want to do better.
  - I want to be a blessing wherever I go, like Joseph and like Jesus.
  - Don't you?
- Now let's move on to the second thing that is true when God is with you...

## **II. When God is with you, He keeps you from sin.**

- A. Joseph, like Jesus his Lord, was faced with a great temptation as he served.
  - A great temptation that was designed specifically to appeal to him...
    1. In verses 7-12 we are told of how Potiphar's wife came after him.
      - In verse 6, it mentions that Joseph, like his mother Rachael, was handsome in form and appearance, and this is what caught this desperate woman's eye.
        - She casts longing eyes on him and says, “Lie with me.”
        - And then we are told that she pressed him day by day...
        - And finally, on a day when she saw that only Joseph was in the house, she tried to grab hold of him and actually took his garment in such a way that he had to slip out of it to get away.
          - This woman was completely overcome by her sinful passions.
      - 2. How hard it is when temptation comes like this...
        - a. It is difficult when it is something that is a natural desire.
          - Joseph was a young man, far from home; and young men, ordinarily, have natural desires for physical intimacy—
          - And he had the natural curiosity of a young man who had never been with a woman—and here is an experienced woman.
        - b. And with that there was the flattery that this woman wanted him so much.
          - She was desperate to have him, and this would have appealed to his pride.
        - c. Besides that, there is little reason to doubt that Potiphar's wife was an attractive woman.
          - She was married to a high official, she had money and time for beauty treatments, jewelry, oils, fashionable clothing—and she was sensual.
          - Proverbs does tell you to beware of the sensual woman because she is unattractive, but because she is beautiful.

- d. Fourthly, it is more difficult when the temptation is brought to you day after day...
    - It is one thing to resist an advance, but to have the temptation renewed again and again, both in moments of strength and moments of weakness.
    - This is what wore Samson down—and many others.
  - e. Fifthly, there was the difficulty that Joseph had risen to great prominence in this house—
    - He was enjoying success and riches and good food—
    - When you have many comforts, it makes you hungry for more comforts.
  - f. Sixthly, he had no godly accountability.
    - He was far from home.
      - He was with the Egyptians so why not do as the Egyptians do?
    - Potiphar was pleased with Joseph and obviously not very close to his wife.
      - He might very well have looked the other way if his choice servant got into an affair with his unhappy wife.
    - In any case, Joseph had no brothers in the Lord, no elders, no threat of church discipline, no one to answer to, no worship service to attend.
      - Such times make temptation harder to fight—we need each other’s help and Joseph had no one to pray with.
  - g. Seventhly, Potiphar’s wife was in a position to bring Joseph even more benefits than he already had.
    - She was an influential woman and could give many gifts to her lover.
  - h. And related to that, she also had power to punish him.
    - Joseph was a wise man, and he knew that refusing this woman could easily make her turn on him.
    - She was not a woman who was accustomed to being refused, especially by a servant!
    - There was a danger in refusing her, and Joseph surely knew that.
      - That would give him an additional reason to give in to her.
3. Satan knows how to bring temptation to us in a way that appeals to us most.
- He is able to dress sin up and make it look very appealing and very attractive and very much like something you are entitled to...
    - We know how he tempted Jesus in the wilderness—
      - appealing to Him to use His authority to make bread from stones...
      - appealing to Him to show everyone who He was by doing feats for them...
      - appealing to Him to receive His inheritance of all the kingdoms and their glory without going to the cross.
  - Temptation is often tailored precisely to appeal to you in your particular circumstances and your particular desires and longings...

B. But see how Joseph marvellously escaped this great temptation!

1. One man pointed out that his deliverance from this temptation was an even greater miracle than the deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace.
  - What tremendous power is seen when we are enabled to stand in the strength of the LORD.
  - How thankful we should be when He has kept us!
2. Learn here from Joseph how to fight against temptation.
  - a. First we see how he absolutely refuses her from the very start!
    - 1) It is so easy to think that we can flirt around a little—that we can handle it—that we can toy with sin and not get hurt.
      - That is a lie from the pit of hell!
      - Do not fall for it—keep your heart far from her!
    - 2) Verses 8 & 9 show how he lays down the law—he plants his feet firmly and establishes his position.
      - a) First, he declares his loyalty to his master because his master has given him everything (except his wife) and has put his complete trust in him.
        - For Joseph, this is a reason not to yield.
        - Satan tries to turn this in the opposite direction...
          - In the goodness of God, Adam and Eve had everything in the garden except one tree...
          - And that is what Satan got them to focus on—not on the fact that God gave them everything in His bounty, but on the one thing that He withheld from them...
            - What wickedness it is to ignore our Father’s kindness and go after what He has forbidden.
            - Joseph refuses to be disloyal to his master who has been so kind to him and has trusted him with everything that he has.
      - b) Second, Joseph labels what this woman is asking him to do as great wickedness.
        - He does not call it by some euphemism—an indiscretion or a misstep—but as it is—great wickedness.
        - I have observed in my pastoral ministry that some people find it very easy to confess sin—but the reason is because they are not really broken over it.
          - In other words, they will say, “Oh yes, I do that all the time,” but there is no admission that it is a great wickedness.
        - We like to soften sin and to minimise it—instead of calling it what it is—great wickedness.
      - c) Third, Joseph states without equivocation that to yield to this woman would be to sin against God.
        - He expressed Potiphar’s kindness, but here is where Joseph found an even greater kindness—in the Lord who loved him!
          - How could he sin against God? How could he set aside his relationship with God for this woman?



- He loved the LORD. He communed with Him. And he did not want that fellowship to be broken.
  - Do you even have such a relationship with God? a relationship that you cherish and want to preserve?
    - If you don't, sin will overtake you.
    - If you don't you need to cultivate such a relationship.
- So Joseph has begun well—planting a refusal in the firm soil of gratitude to his master, avoidance of great wickedness, and most of all his relationship with God.
- b. And you see that he also continues to stand.
- In verse 10, we are told that when she renews the temptation day after day, Joseph stands firmly in his resolve...
    - He does not listen to her either to lie with her or to be with her.
    - The second statement—or to be with her—is very important.
      - No doubt, she would appeal to him to come and sit with her, to come and have a drink, to come and play a game...
        - but Joseph avoids her.
    - I mentioned before the danger of toying around with sin.
      - If Joseph had allowed himself that liberty, it is doubtful that he would have stood.
    - Don't weaken or grow weary fighting against sin each day.
      - The battle is a daily battle and if you let down your guard, you will fail. Keep up your prayers and your warm walk with God.
      - Jesus warned His disciples to watch and pray against temptation.
        - They learned the hard way what happens when you don't!
        - Even Jesus had to do that.
- c. And you also see how Joseph runs.
- The day comes when this woman actually comes upon him—apparently unaware—and snatches his garment.
    - She must have opened it up and been clinging to it firmly such that he slipped out of it and ran!
    - That is exactly the thing to do in a situation like that—flee from the temptation—get out of there as fast as you can.
  - It is no time to try to reason with her—it is time to get out as fast as you can.
    - I love the way that Jesus, when Peter tries to get Him to avoid the cross immediately says, “Get behind me, Satan.”
    - He does not argue about it or discuss it—it was a violent temptation—He, as it were, flees from it immediately.
      - Don't debate about sin.
      - There is nothing to debate.
      - Just get away as fast as you can.

3. But let me stress here that the foundation of Joseph's success in fighting this temptation is his relationship with God the Father.
  - His family and his brothers and godly people were nowhere to be found.
  - He was living for God and he was walking with God and he did not want to stop walking with God to be with this desperate woman.
    - He wanted to continue in his relationship with God and that he did!
      - I ask you again, do you even have a relationship with God that you cherish like that—that keeps you from sin?
      - If not, I suggest that you repent and come to Jesus for mercy right now.
      - If God is with you—that will keep you from sin—and if you do sin, you will quickly return to the Lord.

TRANS> And now I want to move on to our third point...

### **III. When God is with you, do not suppose that it will keep you from great trials and injustices in this world.**

- If anything, you can expect more of these!
- A. Again, Joseph is so much like Jesus in this.
- He had left his father's house and he was serving faithfully as a servant.
    - And now, through no fault of his own, he is falsely accused, charged, and delivered to judgment.
1. First, you see how he is falsely accused by this crafty woman.
    - a. This desperate woman is not used to be refused, and now she is inflamed with anger and wants to get revenge on Joseph.
      - When you do right, you can expect that those who are full of sin will accuse you of wrong.
        - If you keep the Sabbath, you will be called legalist.
        - If you refuse to walk in immorality because it is wrong, you will be called intolerant and unaccepting.
    - b. You see what this wicked woman does now that she has been refused in her heat.
      - 1) She is very quick thinking—
        - As soon as she sees that Joseph has left his garment in her hands (v. 13) she immediately calls to the other house servants.
          - She has already formulated a wicked plan—a very clever and vicious plan.
      - 2) Look at the crafty way she speaks in verse 14 & 15:
        - **Gen 39:14-15: “See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. <sup>15</sup> And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.”**
        - What a thing for her to turn the whole thing around as if Joseph was trying to attack her—and look she has his garment to prove it!

- And look at how she speaks ill of her husband to the servants.
    - “See, he (Potiphar) has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us!”
    - See how she identifies herself with the servants as victims of this foreigner—no doubt she knew that at least some of the servants were resentful of the rise of this Hebrew to such prominence.
- 3) And look, when Potiphar comes, she speaks to her husband in a slightly different way...a very calculated way...
- Instead saying *you have brought this Hebrew in to mock us*, she says (verse 17 & 18), **“The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; <sup>18</sup> so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside.”**
  - You see the subtle shift—not that Potiphar brought Joseph to mock her, but the servant that Potiphar brought in came to mock her.
  - The word *mock* that she uses is the same one we ran into with Ishmael when he *mocked* at Isaac at his weaning.
    - It was also what the men of Sodom accused Lot of doing when he tried to restrain their wicked passions—that he was mocking them.
    - It means to hold in contempt and to not take seriously—it also refers to sporting with—and is used for sexual advances as well.
2. See next how Joseph is charged and cast into prison.
- a. Potiphar really has no other recourse, even if he does not believe his wife.
- He knew what Joseph was like, and he knew what his wife was like.
    - Such a woman very likely had pursued other men in other contexts.
    - Not only that, but Potiphar knew that he did not have a good relationship with her.
      - He probably wanted to keep Joseph, but how could he doubt her story before the servants?
      - It would have brought great shame to his whole house.
      - She had brought the servants into the whole situation.
  - It is interesting to see how the text says that Potiphar was angry, but that we are not told what he angry with...
    - Was it with Joseph? with the whole situation that would cause him to lose his most excellent servant? with his wife?
    - We are not told, but we are given a clue that he was not very mad at Joseph.
  - Normally in Egypt, any servant who tried to rape his master’s wife would have been killed...
    - but instead Joseph is sent to prison.
      - He is sent to the king’s prison—where royal prisoners were kept... probably because his crime was against a high official in Egypt.
    - This was a very mild punishment.
- b. Of course in Joseph’s case, it was a complete unjust punishment!

- 1) An Egyptian prison was not a nice place to go.
    - Psalm 105:18-19 says: **They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.**
    - Joseph was here and he had done no wrong.
  - 2) And perhaps the worst thing of all for Joseph was the fact that others *thought* he had done this great wickedness.
    - Joseph, since coming to Egypt, had sought to honour the LORD before the Egyptians.
      - He was also one who had a great disdain for sin as seen by his firm resistance against it.
      - But now the servants in Potiphar's house and perhaps Potiphar himself and the men in the prison all thought of him as a vile adulterer—a violent man who tried to rape his master's wife.
        - The pain of this was probably greater to him than his fetters!
  - 3) And then there was just the frustration of being treated with such injustice...
    - The injustice of being falsely accused when he had done the right thing!
3. He might have said,
- “So this is the reward I get for doing right.”
  - But instead, we see him, as I have already shown you, seeking to be a blessing to those in the prison—and very much being one!
    - There is no bitterness even though he had twice been unjustly treated when he had done no wrong.
  - How was he able to respond like this?
    - He was able to respond like this because God was with him!
    - God was with him and he knew it and just as he went to Potiphar's house in communion with God, so he goes into prison in communion with God.
- B. God is still with you when great injustice is done to you—in time of great trials!
1. He is with you, bringing you into the trial, in order to form you for His service.
    - Do not despair.
    - God knows about the injustice, and the best thing you can do is keep on walking with Him and serving Him and serving others.
      - That way, you will grow marvellously through the trial.
      - That is one of the reasons God gave it to you—He is with you in the trial.
  2. And secondly, know that He is giving you an opportunity to honour Him through the trial.
    - The servants and Potiphar were watching Joseph when he was in Potiphar's house...
      - Now the people in the prison are watching to see what kind of prisoner Joseph will be...and how he would handle his sentence.
      - Instead of sulking and whining, Joseph goes on serving God.
        - His example stands to this day for the encouragement of the whole church!

- The truth will come out soon enough and you will be vindicated—if not in this world, then that which is to come.
  - What could be better than to know that God will be glorified through your unjust treatment and how you respond to it in the end!
  - Just wait for Him to vindicate you! He will!
- 3. Thirdly, know that if God has put you in a place of suffering when you are walking with Him,
  - He has done it that you might enjoy even a greater comfort and fellowship than you have ever experienced before.
    - It is true.
    - Paul rejoiced that he was able to enter into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings—it always brought great joy to him—it always made him stronger—it always deepened his love for his LORD.
      - Do not despair. Just keep walking with the Lord.
      - He had not abandoned you just because of trials and injustice—He is with you more than ever now.
- 4. And finally, know that He is brought you into the ordeal in order to prepare you for even greater service in the future—whether in this life or that which is to come.
  - Joseph was being prepared to be the vizier of Egypt!
  - You do not know what God has for you, but one thing for sure is that Jesus tells you to rejoice when you are persecuted for righteousness because great is your reward in heaven...
    - The LORD, by your suffering, is preparing you for a greater reward in heaven than you would have had without it.

**Conclusion:** What a wonderful thing it is to know that God is with us—that we might be a blessing—that we might not sin against Him—that we might enter into the fellowship of His sufferings!

- This is our privilege, but we know that even with all this privilege we very often fail and come short...
  - We are not like Joseph because Joseph is a type of Christ...
  - We admire him as a reflection of Jesus...
- So above all let us admire our Lord Jesus Himself...for God the Father was with Him and He Himself is God with us.
  - He came here from His father's house in the form of a slave to be a blessing to us... and that He was...
  - And He came to overcome sin and temptation as our representative, and so to conquer Satan and fulfill God's righteous requirement that Adam failed to fulfill...
  - And He suffered the greatest of all injustices, being cut off when He was perfectly righteous, all that He might bear the penalty of our sin that He might then rise with pardon of sin for all who are in Him.