



Pastor Scott Archer 11.08.2015*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Joseph Pt. 2 – Dreams Fulfilled
Genesis 50:15-26
Series: Genesis – The Story of Us All

Central Passage

Genesis 50: 19–21 (ESV) — **19** But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? **20** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" **21** ...and he spoke kindly to them.

Central Thought: As children of God and followers of Jesus, we are ultimately neither victims of malice nor pawns of fate, as God orchestrates everything in our lives for our growth, his glory and the good of our neighbors.

Lessons From the Life and Faith of Joseph

❖ Bad things happen to good people.

John 16:33 (The Message) — **33** I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

❖ Nothing can thwart God's good purpose for us.

Isaiah 54:16–17 (NLT) — **16** "I have created the blacksmith who fans the coals beneath the forge and makes the weapons of destruction. And I have created the armies that destroy. **17** But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the LORD; their vindication will come from me. I, the LORD, have spoken!

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❖ Understanding God's purposes in and through suffering frees us to forgive.

Genesis 45:12–15 (ESV) — **12** And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you... **14** Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

❖ Faithfulness through suffering prepares us to serve.

Genesis 45:4–7 (ESV) — **4** So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7** And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

Romans 8:28 (ESV) — **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Look to Jesus!

Hebrews 12:1–3 (ESV) — **1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Romans 8:37–39 (ESV) — **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Central Congregational Church – 8360 Lemon Ave. - La Mesa – 91941 – (619) 466-1261