



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Joseph: A Story of Redemption

Life's Two Halves

Genesis 39: 20-40:8

In this sermon series, we explore how only God can mold and shape our lives so that true change can occur.

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

“And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph’s care all the prisoners who were in prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.”

Genesis 39:20-23

Joseph’s life continues to spiral downward, from being sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, to being falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife of a crime he didn’t commit. He is thrown in jail, and instead of responding with anger, outrage, and despondency, we see him seeking to serve the needs of other prisoners with care and concern.

*Thomas points out that in Richard Rohr’s book **Falling Upward**, he describes the two halves of our lives: the 1st half in which we build a structure with our hopes, dreams, and plans, and the 2nd half in which God fills that structure with something totally different than what we thought it would be.*

- *When God changes a life, there is a pattern and order to His re-creation. Compare the patterns emerging in Joseph’s life to those you may be seeing in your own life.*
- *As people of faith, when we “fall upward,” we can trust that we don’t fall alone, and we can raise our eyes to the fact that God can create and re-create something new. What were your “first half dreams?” Did they come true? If not, did you try to hold onto them, and what was the result?*
- *We know that God is changing our lives when we begin to see the fruits of the spirit within us. Think about how and when these attributes may have emerged in your life, and ways you may see yourself being re-created into something new.*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK *Dear Lord, thank you for the promise that we see in Joseph, as he falls into his 2nd half of his life. Help us to believe and trust in this promise and pattern for ourselves and all whom we love. May we be aware of patterns in our own lives, and encourage others who are walking through difficult times. **Amen.***

