

THE JOURNEY OF JOSEPH

How **THEIR** Envy Can Push **YOU** To Purpose

March 6, 2024 / Dr. Chris Williamson

Opening Thought: Why is envy so dangerous? Envy played a significant role in the murder of Jesus Christ (**Matthew 27:18; Mark 15:10**). Envy is when a person or a group of people have **evil intent** towards an innocent person. Envy is when a decision is made to destroy, a plot is set in motion to punish, and a conspiracy is enacted to kill. **Envy begins as jealousy**, and jealousy, if not recognized and repented of, descends into envy.

Envy played a major role in the life of **Joseph**, the great Hebrew patriarch. Before being stoned to death by the Jews, **Stephen** preached about Joseph's journey. **Acts 7:9 – 10**, *“And the patriarchs, becoming **envious**, sold Joseph into Egypt. **But God** was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.”*

JOSEPH'S JOURNEY IN FOUR PARTS

Part 1: Genesis 37:1 – 11 (Petty → Preference → **PROPHECY** → Provoked)

- Why the family division? Who was at fault here? What can we learn from this?
- How can a prophetic call from God on your life threaten others (**Genesis 37:5 – 11**)?
- Notice how **anger** and **envy** are linked together. Why does this matter?

Part 2: Genesis 37:18 – 29, 36 (Plot → Plundered → **PIT** → Profit → Property → Potiphar)

- What is a literal pit? What is a metaphorical pit?
- What does the Bible say about the “pit” in **Psalm 88:3 – 6**?
- What are some things **we should not do** if we find ourselves in a pit?
- What are some things **we should do** if we find ourselves in a pit?

Part 3: Gen 39:1 – 21 (**PRESENCE** → Promotion → Pursued → Persevered → Prison → Prosper)

- Why is the presence of God so important in Joseph's story and in our story (**Genesis 39:2, 3, 21, 23; Acts 7:9 – 10**)?
- What should we do when we don't feel like God is with us or even for us?
- How was Joseph able to resist temptation with Potiphar's wife in **Genesis 39:7 – 9**?
- What are some things Joseph did not do while suffering? Why is this important?

Part 4: Gen. 40–50 (Providence → Pharaoh → Posterity → Power → Perspective → **PURPOSE**)

- Why is God’s timing so important in our journey?
- According to **Genesis 50:20**, what was Joseph’s purpose?
- What do you think your God ordained purpose is in life?
- How has your journey involved a pit? How did that pit push you to your purpose?
- Have you ever publicly shared the story of your pit? Why or why not?

Conclusion: Joseph could not have achieved his purpose without a pit, and neither can we. As with Joseph, God will use a pit to push us into our purpose. In other words, THEIR envy will lead to OUR elevation! THEIR plot to take us out is used by God to take US up! The PAIN of the pit in our lives will eventually lead to PRODUCE for others!

Joseph was a “**type of Christ**” because he was forsaken, rejected, and sold by his own brothers, YET he experienced a “**resurrection**” that saved their lives and the lives of people from other nations.

You know you’ve grown spiritually when you can thank God for the pit **AND** the people who pushed you into it because God used the pit to propel you to your purpose!

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think you are you in a pit, coming out of a pit, or heading to a pit?
2. Why should a pit be viewed like a “pit-stop” in auto racing?
3. What happens when our focus is on God and not on the people who pushed us into the pit? See **Psalm 118:13**
4. Who is ultimately responsible for the pit? See **Psalm 88:3 – 6**. How can knowing this help us when we find ourselves in a pit?
5. How has God used the pain from your pit to encourage others?