



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis Sermon Series

Supports Session 10: Accused

Sermon Title: "When Life is Unfair" (Genesis 39:7-21)

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### Connection to Session 10

Joseph did the right thing, but he still went to prison. This reminds us that we live in a fallen world, and life is not always fair. Yet God is in control even when life is not fair.

### Introduction/Opening

One of the most popular television shows of all time was *The Beverly Hillbillies*. It was about a hillbilly family that struck oil, and they ended up moving to Beverly Hills. In one episode, an employee from their bank became infatuated with the family patriarch, Jed Clampett (or rather, she was infatuated with his money). Fortunately, Jed was wise to her, and he made this comment to his daughter: "Us old foxes is trap-shy, especially when the bait goes to chasin' us!" Like Jed, Joseph was lured into a moral trap. Though he resisted the advances of Potiphar's wife, he went to prison for a crime he did not commit. Can we trust God even when life is not fair?

### Outline

#### 1. An unfair situation (vv. 7-10).

- a) Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers.
  - i. They were jealous because he was their father Jacob's favorite, and Jacob had given him a coat of many colors.
  - ii. Though it was not the best of situations, Joseph gave it his best (vv. 2-6)
- b) Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph.
  - i. He was an unusually handsome man (v. 6).
  - ii. To Joseph's credit, he was determined to obey God (vv. 8-9).
  - iii. He refused her advances (v. 10).
- c) Life often requires you to make hard choices.
  - i. In many situations, neutrality is not an option.
  - ii. If you choose to obey God, it can cost you.

#### 2. An unfair accusation (vv. 11-18).

- a) One day, Joseph was alone in the house with Potiphar's wife, and she tried to get him to have sexual relations with her.
  - i. Joseph ran away from her, leaving his coat behind.
  - ii. When you are confronted with sexual immorality, you should let your feet do the thinking (1 Cor. 6:18).
- b) Potiphar's wife got revenge by falsely accusing Joseph.

- i. She claimed Joseph had tried to seduce her, and she used his coat as evidence.
  - ii. As a result, Joseph was put in prison (Gen. 39:20).
- c) God doesn't promise life will always be easy for His followers.
  - i. People will slander you and persecute you.
  - ii. Nevertheless, we can rest assured God is in control (Phil. 1:6).

**3. An unfair incarceration (vv. 19-22).**

- a) Joseph could have become bitter, but he continued to act with integrity.
  - i. The prison warden put him in charge of all the other prisoners.
  - ii. Eventually, Pharaoh put him in charge of all Egypt (Gen. 41:38-44).
- b) We can trust God even in the most unfair situations.
  - i. He will have the final word.
  - ii. He can bring good out of unfair circumstances (Rom. 8:28).

## Conclusion

I'm often reminded what my college Sunday School teacher said about Joseph: "He went from being the favorite son of a rich man, to being the favorite slave of a well-to-do man, to being the favorite prisoner in a jail. He was taking two steps forward and three steps backward!" Be that as it may, God was with Joseph, and he took care of him in the midst of his unjust situation. We don't always understand why God allows certain things to happen, but He is in control of things even when we don't understand. Even in the worst of situations, you can trust Him.

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