

Genesis 39 — The Successful Life

Warm-Up Question:

When you were growing up, how did you think of a successful life? How would you define it now?

READ: Genesis 39

I. THE SUCCESSFUL LIFE: PRESENCE OF GOD

- ▶ Discuss Joseph's success with both with Potiphar and the captain of the guard. One might think it was because of something about Joseph, but read VS 2 & 23 and discuss why.
- ▶ Read Psalm 23:4 & Psalm 43:1-5 and discuss how the presence of God makes a difference during difficult trials.
- ▶ Share any stories of how you have felt the presence of God has sustained you in the midst of a time of suffering.

II. THE SUCCESSFUL LIFE: THE PURPOSE OF GOD

- ▶ Ray said in the sermon that one of our main purposes as Christians is to work for the flourishing of others around us. How did Joseph do that, and who did it benefit?
- ▶ Read Matt. 5:13 and share what possible ways God has called you to be salt for the flourishing of those around where God has you right now.

III. THE SUCCESSFUL LIFE: THE PASSION OF GOD

- ▶ From VS 9, what was the main motivation Joseph had to remain pure? Discuss how the CS Lewis quote in the blue section relates.
- ▶ Jesus was the presence of God made flesh, sacrificing his life for our flourishing. How should such love for us motivate us to live for God?
- ▶ Share some ways that you'd like God to motivate change in your life?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise. The longings which arise in us when we fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning can really satisfy. If I find in myself desires which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy, but only to arouse a desire for the real thing.

-C.S. Lewis

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