

SERMON NOTES:



September 20, 2026

When life doesn't go to plan
GENESIS 37-41 (JOSEPH PART 1)

Pastor Mick Spann

1. We don't control the chapter we're in

- Joseph's life repeatedly took unexpected turns: pit, slavery, prison, forgotten.
- We all have pictures of how life should go.
- Sometimes life takes us into a chapter we never would have chosen.
- We cannot always control our circumstances.

2. God is present in every season

- "The LORD was with Joseph." — A phrase repeated 4 times in the narrative
- Difficult circumstances do not mean God has abandoned us.
- God is with us in abundance and scarcity, joy and grief, growth and decline.
- Don't simply wait for the "real" or "good" season of life to begin/return. This season is the season to live in.

3. We can choose who we are becoming

- Joseph responded to injustice with faithfulness rather than bitterness.
- Doing the right thing does not guarantee an immediate reward... but doing the wrong thing typically makes a situation worse!
- We cannot control every outcome—but we can remain faithful and do good in whatever season we are in.
- God uses ordinary work, relationships, suffering and routines to shape us.

4. The greatest reward is a transformed character

- Joseph's promotion was not the ultimate reward.
- God formed humility, wisdom, mercy and faithfulness in him.
- Joseph became someone God could use to bring blessing and reconciliation.
- The external outcome mattered less than the person Joseph was becoming.

5. God is at work beyond what we can see

- Joseph could not see the whole story while he was living it.
- God's sovereign purposes were being worked out through human choices and circumstances.
- "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." — Genesis 50:20
- We can pursue God's Will and be His faithful servant without needing to control every step.

The Big Idea

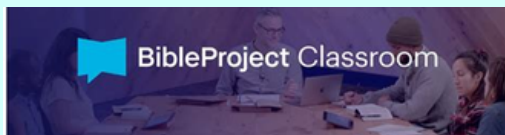
In every chapter of life, Gods desire is to form His nature within us so that He can use us in His purposes.

We don't follow Jesus because we have been promised an easy plot.

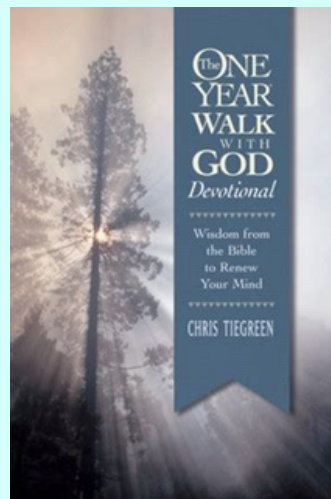
We follow Jesus because God is forming us in every chapter of life to abide with Him.

.....

Resources that Mick found helpful in the development of this message:



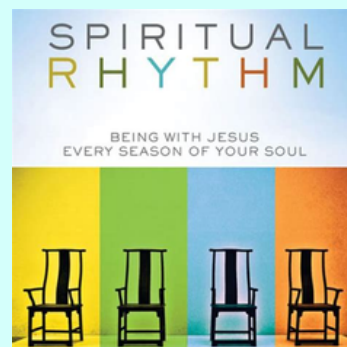
Joseph
Genesis 37:2-50:26
Dr. Tim Mackie



The One Year Walk
with God
Devotional
Chris Tiegreen



All Shall Be Well
Catherine McNiel



Spiritual Rhythm
Mark Buchanan

