

Color Your World
Joseph – Ashes to Beauty

Genesis 50:20

After listening to the message and completing this study, it is our prayer that God will start showing you His beauty in the most painful times of your life.

This week, we conclude our series on Joseph. Over the last three weeks, we have learned many things about the character of Joseph. We have learned about his work ethic, his great moral compass, and his willingness to forgive. We have learned how he bounced back from adversity, how he served faithfully, and how he was an example to us on how we should and can conduct our lives.

We also learned about his adversity. We learned that his life was a story of sibling conflicts and rivalry, favoritism, temptation, lust, being wrongly accused, hurt, and self-inflicted suffering. Also, if you were to dig into it, you would see unjust punishment, more suffering inflicted by others, and YEARS – yes, YEARS – of seemingly silence from God. During this time is when Joseph was crying out, “GOD, BRING CHANGE! God, do something! God, WHY? God, this HURTS! God, this isn’t what I signed up for ... GOD THIS ISN’T FAIR ... This isn’t what I dreamed it would be!”

As we conclude the series, we aren’t going to look at the character of Joseph and learn from him. We are going to look at what Joseph learned about God. At the end of Joseph’s life, he makes a bold statement in Genesis 50:20 to those who wronged him:

Genesis 50:20

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

The only thing that allowed Joseph to make such a statement is that he believed in the sovereignty of God and that God’s character is good.

Read the definition of sovereignty below.

Definition of Sovereignty

The one with supreme excellence and supreme power,
who is free from external controls and has the final controlling influence.

Do you agree that God is sovereign or not? Why or why not?

Do you agree that God is good? Why or why not?

Whether you agree that God is good and sovereign or not, it doesn't change the fact that He is.

Today, we are going to look at the four pieces of Genesis 50:20 and take time to reflect on them. Hopefully, as you do this, you will learn to rest in God's goodness and faithfulness.

Man Meant Evil

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."
Genesis 50:20

Joseph realistically notes that the things done to him by man and the wrong things he did himself were evil.

What evil things have you done or that have been done to you?

Are you willing to let God be bigger than these people and these things?

God Meant Good

"As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it for good** in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."
Genesis 50:20

Ask God to reveal to you His good that is at work in you and in your hurts.

God Brings Good Results

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good **in order to bring about this present result,** to preserve many people alive."
Genesis 50:20

Joseph came to understand the good that God brought into his life and into the lives of others. What good results have you seen God bring in your life? What results would you like Him to bring in your life?

God Brings Life

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, **to preserve many people alive.**"
Genesis 50:20

How is God using your pain to bring life to others? How would you like Him to bring life to others and glory to Himself because of your life experiences?
