

LECTURE # 23

"TRUSTING GOD IN ADVERSITY" A Case Study from the Life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50

I. WHERE WE'RE HEADING.

A. Key Resource: *Trusting God*, by Jerry Bridges.

B. Two key questions...

1. Can you _____ God?
2. Can _____ trust God?

II. KNOW THIS FROM THE OUTSET: THREE _____ WHICH ENABLE US TO _____.

A. God is _____ of our lives.

B. God does _____ us.

C. God works out all circumstances for our _____ and His _____.

III. THE LIFE OF JOSEPH: TRUSTING GOD TO BRING _____ OUT OF _____.

A. Joseph faced a series of _____.

1. Joseph was born in the midst of _____ tension (ch 30).
2. Joseph endured family tension in his _____ (ch 37).
3. Joseph, though _____, was _____ by a foolish woman (ch 39).

4. Joseph, though _____, was sent to _____ (ch 39).

a. There is no such thing as "_____" if God is _____.

5. Joseph, though _____, was _____ in prison (ch 40).

B. God _____ to bring good out of bad.
Watch the sequence of "ordinary" events that God orchestrated to accomplish His good plan for Joseph (and others).

1. Pharaoh had a _____ (41:1).

2. The cupbearer _____ Joseph (41:9).

3. Pharaoh _____ for Joseph (41:14).

Question: Had Joseph lost _____ while waiting?

Answer: _____! He trusted God because He knew God was in control.

Key: God was _____ to Joseph, so real that the most natural thing in the world for him was to give God credit when speaking to Pharaoh.

4. Pharaoh _____ Joseph (41:39-40).

Question: Was Joseph a _____?

Answer: No, he felt _____. But he trusted God to handle the _____ (41:51, 52).

5. God used a famine to _____ Joseph with his family (ch 42-50).

Key: It wasn't _____ alone that God had in mind throughout the ordeal. God used Joseph to accomplish an amazing purpose in His _____ plan.

6. God used the venture in Egypt to turn a family into a _____.

Question: How did Joseph maintain an _____ outlook?

Answer: He saw God's _____ in the trials and triumphs of his life (45:5, 7, 8, 9; 50:19-20).

a. Some different views of _____...

1. "Chance is the pseudonym God uses when He'd rather not sign His own name."
2. Andrew Murray—"In creating man with a free will and making him a partner in the rule of the earth, *God limited himself. He made himself dependent on what man would do* (emphasis added)."
3. Jerry Bridges summarizes (37), "If there is a single event in all of the universe that can occur outside of God's sovereign control then we cannot trust Him."

b. Other relevant texts: Eccl 7:14; Isaiah 45:7; Lamentations 3:38

IV. IMPLICATIONS: THREE TRUTHS WHICH _____ US TO TRUST GOD.

A. God is _____ of our lives.

B. God does _____ us.

Key: The story of Joseph is the Romans 8:28 of the Old Testament.

C. God works out all circumstances for our ultimate _____ and His _____.

V. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS WITH COUNSELEES:

A. Help the counselee develop a proper view of _____.
[a helpful tool is the booklet, You Can Trust God, by Jerry Bridges]

1. God is _____ (Ps 33:10-11; 115:3; Job 42:2; Eph 1:11; James 4:13-15; Prov 16:9; 19:21; 21:30; Eccl 7:13; Lam 3:37-38; Isa 45:7).
2. God is _____ in _____ (Rom. 11:33; Ps 147:5).
3. God is _____ in _____ (Rom 8:28-30, 35, 37; Jer 29:11; Gen 50:20; Heb 13:5).

B. Help the counselee develop a proper view of _____.

1. We must _____ trials (2 Tim 3:10-14).
2. We must _____ to view trials as working for our _____, not our _____ (James 1:2-5).
3. We must see _____ in the trials (Ps 119:67, 71, 75, 77, 92).
4. We must focus, not on obtaining _____, but exhibiting a Christ-like _____ in the trial (Luke 22:42).
5. We must remind ourselves that the adversity will not last _____ (1 Pet 1:6-9; 5:10).