

June 14, 2026

Pastor Andy McClellan

Title: “God’s Presence, Potiphar and Prison”

Series: Genesis: Beginnings

Text: Genesis 39

God's presence with His people...

1. Gives **FAVOR** amidst unjust suffering, vv. 1-4, 21-22 (*see also Matthew 28:20; Acts 7:9-10; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11; 12:9-10; 1 Peter 2:18-19; 4:13-14; Hebrews 12:2-3*).
2. Provides **STRENGTH** to resist temptation, vv. 6b-20 (*see also 12:11; 18:19; 26:7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; 1 Cor. 10:13; Galatians 5:16; 2 Timothy 2:22; Heb. 2:18; 4:15*).
3. Brings **BLESSINGS** to those around us, vv. 5-6a, 23 (*see also Gen. 12:3; 22:18; Psalm 67:1-2; Matt. 5:14-16; John 15:4-5; 2 Cor. 2:14-16; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Peter 4:10*).

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read Gen. 39 and note how many times God’s presence with Joseph is mentioned. Even in God’s presence, how has he endured unjust suffering? In what ways does God give him favor in the midst of the suffering? How does Joseph’s experience point us to the unjust suffering that Jesus endured? How do their experiences both challenge the prosperity gospel teaching that true believers will not suffer, and encourage us when we do endure unjust suffering? Why is God’s presence with us so important?
2. In vv. 6-20, what temptation does Joseph repeatedly face, and given the context, why would it have been very easy to give in to it? How does Joseph’s response show both strength in his faith that God is with him *and* a recognition of his own weakness? How is this an example of 1 Cor. 10:12-14? How have you experienced this truth in your own life? What are some temptations that are you currently facing today, and what can you take away from this story to help you fight them? How does it point to your need for Jesus with you?
3. Consider a time when you did the right thing, and it came with a cost. What two reasons does Joseph give for resisting Potiphar’s wife’s advances? How does Potiphar repay him in vv. 19-20? While not keeping him from prison, how does God reward Joseph in v. 21? What does this teach us about what we should and should not expect when we resist temptation in obedience to God? In those times, why is it so important to recognize God’s presence with us? How should it make us long for heaven?
4. In both Potiphar’s house and in prison, how does God’s favorable presence on Joseph result in very tangible and measurable blessings on those around him? How is this a continuing fulfillment of Gen. 12:3? In the same way, as you carry the presence of God with you, how does your life bless others? How does it make us better employees, students, citizens, etc.? How does that point people to Jesus (see cross references in point #3 above)?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 40-41, Pastor Asa Hart

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