



Grace is Greater Than My Worst Days

Pastor Doug Heisel – April 30, 2017

Scene #1 — Family DYSFUNCTION

Genesis 37:17-18 — So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him...

Genesis 37:26-27 — Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

Genesis 39:1-5 — Meanwhile, Joseph had been delivered to Egypt and turned over to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s court officials and the Commander-in-Chief of the imperial guards. ... **But the LORD was with Joseph.** He became a very prosperous man while in the house of his Egyptian master, who could see that the LORD was with Joseph because the LORD made everything prosper that Joseph did.

Grace Insight #1: Grace is greater than my PAST, even when it DELIVERS me in ways I don’t expect. Learn to trust God’s CHARACTER, even when you can’t feel His presence or see His plan.

Scene #2 — New TRIALS.

Genesis 39:7,9 — Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. ... (But Joseph said), “... how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?”

(Eventually she accuses Joseph of rape, and he gets thrown in prison, for an act he did not commit.) Genesis 37:11-19

Genesis 39:21-23 — **But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison** and showed him His faithful love. ...Before long, the warden **put Joseph in charge** of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

Grace Insight #2: Grace can take your trial and turn it into TRAINING. The bigger your future PLATFORM, the greater your current preparation. HONOR God, where you are, with what you have.

Scene #3 — A new APPOINTMENT.

Genesis 41:39-40 — Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. **You shall be in charge** of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

(In time Joseph’s brothers wind in Egypt standing before Joseph. Genesis chapters 42-50)

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.** So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:19-21

Grace Insight #3: Grace can REVERSE what sin tried to curse. You are called to be a BLESSING. Grace is greater than anything that tries to keep you down.

Deuteronomy 28:2

All of the following blessings will be yours—
in fact, they’ll chase after you—
if you’ll listen to what (The LORD) tells you.

Upcoming Teaching Schedule:

May 7:

- Alamo: Ben Johnson, all services
- Dublin: Stephen Miller, all services

May 14:

- Alamo: 8:00am & 5:00pm - Crystal Heisel
- Alamo: 9:30 & 11:15am - Crystal (streaming from Dublin)
- Dublin: 9:30 & 11:15am - Crystal Heisel

May 21:

- Alamo: Doug all AM services.
- Dublin: 9:30 & 11:15am - Doug (streaming from Alamo)

**Also, mark your calendars for May 21
Kingdom Builders at 5pm in Alamo,
with special guest: Nancy Ortberg**

(Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend)



Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Start by expressing your gratitude for something God has blessed you with.

DIGGING IN: Today's lesson is how grace is greater than our worst days. God doesn't promise a pain-free life, but He does give us His grace so that we can be overcomers.

1. Read the story of Joseph, from the verses listed in these notes. Which part of his story do you identify with most, and why?
2. Review the three "Grace Insights," from this Sunday's teaching (listed in these notes). Which insight is most applicable to you right now? Explain.
3. During the Sunday message, Pastor Doug interviewed Dr Sam Huddleston. Was there a personal take-away, from Sam's testimony, that you can share with this group?

BRINGING IT HOME: There is a divine calling on your life. Nothing from our past can stand against the grace God has for our present. Grow in God's grace, and share God's grace. The Lord wants to bless you to be a greater blessing. Be faithful now, with what you have!