

Advancing Through Adversity

September Sermon Series

**“Hardships often prepare ordinary
people for an extraordinary
destiny.”**

C.S. Lewis

The background is a teal mosaic of irregular, overlapping shapes in various shades of teal and light blue, creating a textured, geometric pattern.

Experiencing Success Through Adversity

Lesson One

Adversity is a condition of suffering and hardship involving anguish, pressure, trials, heartaches, or disappointments.

**Adversity can be our greatest
motivation for spiritual growth or
our deadliest means of
discouragement.**

**“You don’t know who you are
until you’ve faced real
adversity.”**



Scriptural Examples:

Moses

David

Daniel

Jesus

Genesis 37:23-28 (NKJV)

Scripture Lesson

So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. So Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?”

Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.” And his brothers listened. Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV), But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

A Word About Sorrow



Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!” But Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, “Let us not kill him.”

Genesis 37:20-22 (NKJV)

And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit which *is* in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him”—that he might deliver him out of their hands and bring him back to his father.

Genesis 37:20-22 (NKJV)

Sorrow Is Natural.



You cannot control the pain that comes with adversity, but you can control your response and have more courage and strength in the face of it.



Make the Best of the Situation



THREE WAYS JOSEPH FOUND SUCCESS:



**1. HE FOUND SUCCESS AS A
SERVANT TO POTIPHAR.**

Genesis 39:3-6 (NKJV)

**And his master saw that
the LORD *was* with him and that
the LORD made all he did to prosper in
his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his
sight and served him. Then he made
him overseer of his house, and all *that* he
had he put under his authority.**

⁵ So it was, from the time *that* he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. ⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.

1. Good leaders must first become good servants.

2. Serving others prepares you to lead others.

**2. HE FOUND SUCCESS AS A
PRISONER INCARCERATED.**

Genesis 39:21-23 (NKJV)

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who *were* in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything *that was* under *Joseph's* authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made *it* prosper.

**“Grace is the overflowing favor of
God,
and you can always count on it being
available to draw upon as needed.”**

1. Even the people who betray you are part of the plan.

2. God has the right people lined up. He knows how to put you in the right place. He is going to make things happen that you never imagined.

Genesis 41:38-39 (NKJV), And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.

**JOSEPH FOUND SUCCESS AS
PHARAOH'S PRIME MINISTER.**

Genesis 41:40-43 (NKJV)

You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

**The secret of Joseph's
strength is divine strength.**

**“Sometimes adversity is what you
need to face in order to become
successful.”**



**“Adversity causes some men
to break; others to break
records.”**

