



Dealing with Disappointment

You're familiar with the story. Joseph, his father's favorite, is betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery. He works well for Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard, until he's set up by Potiphar's wife, and gets thrown into prison. There, he serves the prison warden well, but is forgotten.

If you find yourself in some version of a dungeon, between a rock and a hard place, with far more questions than answers, may I suggest that if in fact God is sovereign, you might, like Joseph, be right where you're supposed to be?

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You've been terminated without cause, or without notice ... you've been personally wounded by the actions of a former friend ... cast off by a romantic interest ... neglected by a bureaucracy. Our tendency is to get our pound of flesh, exact our revenge, to get in the last word.

But is it possible that you and I are sometimes put in humbling circumstances so God can work out some character issues deep inside? Is it possible that, just like Joseph, our faith needs to be challenged that even in slavery, or a dungeon, unemployed or under-employed, un-utilized and forgotten – is it possible that *a* difficult situation has a higher purpose? A bigger picture?

Joseph must have figured that out. He discovered that if God is sovereign, then his disturbing condition was not an indication of God's absence, but a part of his plan, and a crucial step in Joseph's journey to becoming a man.

Is it possible that wherever you find yourself, the same thing is true? And that we, like Joseph, must have an unshakable faith that wherever we are today is precisely where we need to be?

Genesis describe Joseph's life as a roller-coaster life of ups and downs. They also paint a very clear picture of what faith looks like up close and personal – of what it means to say, “OK Jesus, because you say so, because you put me here, I'll do it. I don't see the point, I'm pretty bummed out, but because you say so, I'll do my best.”

Reflection:

1. What might God be trying to teach you today?
2. What specifically will you change about yourself today?
3. Who will keep you accountable for this?