

## “God Brings Good To Come Out of Evil”

Genesis 50:15-26

### Introduction

Heading to pick up Sandwiches on Thursday night I heard a story about Ben Spencer, a man from Dallas, imprisoned since 1987 for a crime he didn’t commit.

**The Bottom Line:** God is at work in the adversity you face to bring good out of evil by His grace.

- **God brings good to come out of evil.**
  - **God gave Joseph the power to forgive his brothers.**

vv. 15-21

- **God used the horrible injustice Joseph faced to save countless lives, including Joseph’s whole family.**

Genesis 45:3-8

- **God blessed Joseph in the midst of all the injustice, suffering and pain he endured.**

Genesis 39:2-6a

Genesis 39:20b-23

- **Joseph remained faithful and did not compromise his faith and trust in God.**

I believe strongly that Joseph was able to remain faithful because of God’s continued blessing, but also because **he held fast to the dreams God had given him.**

There were six dreams that were relevant to our story of Joseph here in Genesis.

Joseph’s two dreams as a teenager—Genesis 37:5-11

The cup-bearer’s, the baker’s dreams—Genesis 40:1-23

Pharaoh’s two dreams—Genesis 41:1-7

God had a specific message in each of these dreams. God used them for His purposes.

Has God given you any dreams or visions that you still remember and think were from God?

“I don’t understand why Sammy (*his wife*) has not yet been fully healed (God knows, we have prayed). I definitely don’t understand why he does some miracles and not others—if often seems so arbitrary. But I am learning to understand that I may never fully understand. I am learning to be a bit more okay with not being okay. Life sometimes hurts, but I’ve discovered that deleting God from the equation doesn’t actually help. It merely removes all meaning and morality from the mess and all real hope for the future. And so I’m sort of stuck with God, even when I don’t understand him. Even when I don’t completely like him. Turns out he is all I’ve got.” “How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People” by Peter Greig, pp. 57-58

### Conclusion

Romans 8:17-18 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

<sup>18</sup> consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Romans 8:26-28 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

### What adversity are you facing today?

- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Do you see some good that has come out of (or begun to come out of) your hardships?
- Are there some blessings from God given to you in this time for which to give thanks to God?
- Is there a dream or dreams God has given you that you need to hold on to?
- Are you remaining faithful to God in the midst of your latest storm?