

When Life Isn't Fair

By: David Burruss

Life is not always fair. Sometimes the people who try to do what is right seem to suffer the most. One of my favorite movie quotes comes from Rocky: "The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It is a very mean and nasty place... It's not about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward." While those words are not inspired Scripture, they capture a reality every Christian eventually faces. Life can hit hard.

The question is not whether we will face injustice. The question is how we will respond when it comes. For that answer, we can look to Joseph.

Joseph was betrayed by his own brothers and sold into slavery (Genesis 37:28). He was faithful in Potiphar's house, yet he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife of trying to assault her (Genesis 39:18). Instead of being rewarded for his integrity, he was thrown into prison. While there, he helped Pharaoh's butler by interpreting his dream, only to be forgotten when the butler was restored to his position (Genesis 40:23).

Joseph knew what it was like to be cast aside. He was thrown into a pit by his brothers (Genesis 37:24), and later he spoke of another pit while imprisoned (Genesis 40:15). His coat was stripped from him by his brothers (Genesis 37:23), and later Potiphar's wife used his garment as false evidence against him (Genesis 39:13).

Yet through every hardship, Joseph never abandoned God. In fact, the Bible repeatedly reminds us that the Lord was with Joseph. God made him overseer of Potiphar's house (Genesis 39:4), then gave him responsibility over the prison (Genesis 39:22), and finally elevated him to rule over Egypt under Pharaoh (Genesis 41:40). Pharaoh even clothed him with garments of fine linen and placed a gold chain around his neck (Genesis 41:42), replacing what had been taken from him.

The story of Joseph teaches a beautiful truth. Joseph never forgot God, and God never forgot Joseph.

When life seems unfair, we need the same faith that Joseph had. We may not understand why we suffer, why we are misunderstood, or why others seem to prosper while we struggle. But we can trust that God is still working, even when we cannot see His hand.

Joseph's life encourages us to commit our way to the Lord. In a sense, his example echoes these great biblical truths:

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7).

"For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth" (Psalm 37:9).

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10).

It is easy to trust God when life is going well. It is much harder to trust Him when we have been wounded by others. Yet that is exactly what Joseph did. Instead of becoming bitter, he remained faithful. Instead of seeking revenge, he waited on God's timing. Instead of allowing evil to shape his character, he let God shape his heart.

If we will put our trust in the Lord, He will be with us just as He was with Joseph. He will strengthen us, bless us, and help us respond to those who hurt us in a Christ-like way.

And when the weight of injustice feels overwhelming, we can hold on to the comforting promise of Romans 8:31:

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"