



THE ORCHARD

The God Who Is With Us

Genesis 38:1-50

Pastor Tom Yoon

September 13, 2026

Introduction:

- Throughout the past two years, we've been working our way through the book of Genesis.
 - And we saw God's love in creating the world, even though humanity rebelled against him.
 - We saw how Abraham grew in faith and learned to depend on God.
 - We saw how God fulfilled his promise by providing Isaac at the perfect time.
 - Then we saw how God showed grace to Jacob and kept helping him, despite his failures.
 - And today, as we come to Genesis 37, we'll be finishing the book of Genesis by looking at the life of Joseph.
- When you look at Joseph's life, you see someone who's faces a lot of hardships.
 - He's betrayed by his brothers.
 - Falsely accused.
 - Forgotten by others.
 - And there are difficult seasons when all he can do was wait.
 - And yet, what becomes clear is that God was with Joseph.
 - In fact, whenever Joseph faces trouble, we keep seeing this phrase:



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- **“The Lord was with Joseph.”** (Genesis 39:2, 39:3, 39:21, 39:23, Acts 7:9)
- It may be you feel God is distant from you today.
 - But for everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ, this is God’s promise:
 - No matter how difficult your trials.
 - No matter how far God seems.
 - Even when you feel like giving up.
 - God is always with you, and working for your good and for his glory.
 - And as we look at the story of Joseph, it will give you a new perspective on your life.
 - Especially on your trials.
- And this morning, we begin with Genesis 37.
 - And through this story, we’ll see how God is with us when we face conflict and disappointment in our lives.
 - It may be you’re facing conflict with someone in your family.
 - You may feel unfairly judged by a friend or a co-worker.
 - Sometimes, the conflict is within yourself.
 - You may feel jealous or envious when someone else gets more opportunities than you.



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- But through our passage, we'll see how we can honor God and find peace, when we face conflict and disappointment.
- Before we get started, let me read the whole story for you.
 - Please turn to Genesis 37.
 - Now, I do want to let you know.
 - For next several weeks, we're going to be reading large chunks of the Bible.
 - If you want to understand the sermon, you need to understand the whole story.
 - Take a look at verse 1.
- READ GENESIS 37.
- How can we honor God and find peace, when we face conflict and jealousy?

Point 1:

- First, we can honor God in the midst of conflict and disappointment by seeking the God of Jacob.
- When you look at Genesis chapter 36, you're given a list of Esau's descendants.
 - Esau was Jacob's twin brother.



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- And when you study it, it's pretty impressive.
- It's filled with chiefs, and kings, and numerous descendants.
- It's like someone saying, these are the children of Tom Yoon.
- There were 4 presidents, 3 senators, 7 CEOs, and many more successful people.
- It even says that Esau's possessions were so great he had to leave the land of Canaan.
 - **"For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together. The land of their sojourning's could not support them...So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir."** Genesis 36:7-8
- But when you get to Genesis 37, and look at Jacob's genealogy, it's not filled with kings and chiefs or numerous people.
 - Listen to chapter 37 verses 1 and 2:
 - **"Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojourning's, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob, Joseph, being seventeen years old..."**
 - What?
 - That's it?
 - Shouldn't God's chosen family have a more impressive list?
 - Instead, it's just one 17-year-old kid.



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- Now, we know that Joseph also had eleven brothers.
 - But when you look at what the Bible says about the, they aren't very impressive.
 - Reuben, the oldest, slept with his father's concubine, and lost his birthright as the firstborn son.
 - Simeon and Levi deceived Shechem, and murdered all the men in the city of Shechem, out of anger for Dinah.
 - Next week, we'll see how Judah fails to keep his promise to his daughter-in-law, and even ends up sleeping with her.
 - And in our chapter today, we see the cruelty of these brothers.
- But here's the difference we need to see.
 - Esau left the land of Canaan, while Jacob stayed.
 - Esau had kings and chiefs.
 - While Jacob had a family filled with conflict and sin.
 - But Jacob kept holding on to God's promise.
 - He remained in the land.
 - He was living under God's covenant.
 - In other words, he was looking to God's promise to him.
- That's why throughout the Bible, the writers refer to God, as the God of Jacob.



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- Because true blessing isn't found in power, or wealth, or position, or gifting.
- Rather, it's found in seeking the God of Jacob.
- Listen to Psalm 24:
- **“He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.”** Psalm 24:5-6
- Esau had kings, but Jacob had God's promise.

- And this is also what we see in Joseph's life.
 - When he was betrayed by his brothers.
 - When he was sold as a slave.
 - When he was forgotten by his fellow prisoner.
 - Joseph could've become bitter and angry.
 - But instead, he kept trusting the Lord.
 - And through it all, God was with Joseph and continued to work good in his life.

- When you compare your life with others, you may feel jealous and that can take your peace away.
 - When others are given more responsibilities than you or seem to have a more thriving ministry.
 - When others seem to have a better marriage.
 - When someone else's children seem to be doing better than your kids.



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- When others have more financial security.
- When others seem to move faster in their career.
- And you may feel discouraged when God doesn't change your circumstances.
- But it may be, instead of praying:
 - "Lord, please change my circumstance."
 - God may be leading you to pray:
 - "Lord, no matter what comes my way."
 - "Help me to be faithful in my circumstances today."
 - "Help me to trust in you."
 - "Help me to seek your face."
 - "Help me to see, even if I lose everything I have, all I need is you."
 - It's when you can say that prayer, you can begin to find peace in your conflict.
 - Because that's when God becomes your greatest treasure, and your peace becomes dependent on his promises and not your circumstance.
- How can we find peace in the midst of conflict and brokenness?
 - We need to seek the God of Jocab.



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Point 2:

- Second, we can honor God in the midst of conflict and disappointment, by speaking God's truth to others.
- When Joseph brought a bad report about his brothers, some people think he was being a tattletale.
 - They think he was being a prideful brat by sharing his dreams.
- But when you read through the story of Joseph, it's clear that nothing bad is ever said about him.
 - This doesn't mean he didn't sin.
 - Like everyone else, Joseph was a sinner needing God's grace.
 - But the writer's purpose wasn't to show Joseph's flaws.
 - In fact, the Bible never says that Joseph was being prideful.
 - But it does clearly highlight his faithfulness to God.
- And so, by bringing this bad report, he was simply telling the truth.
 - He was telling his father what his brothers were doing.
- If you love someone who is going down the wrong path, wouldn't you try to get help for that person?



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- That's most likely what Joseph was doing.
- And when he shared his dreams with his brothers, he was speaking what God had revealed to him.
 - God was revealing through these dreams, what would happen to Joseph's family.
- In our day today, it's possible for God to speak through dreams.
 - But we have the Bible.
 - And that's how God speaks to us.
 - Everything must be tested by the Bible.
- But in Joseph's time, there were no Bibles for people to read.
 - So, God spoke through dreams, and visions, and even with an audible voice.
- Pastor Colin Smith writes:
 - "It has often been suggested that Joseph should have kept his dreams to himself. It's easy to paint him as arrogant, self-opinionated, and overbearing. But Joseph's dream was the Word of God, not only for him, but also for the whole family. How could he possibly keep it to himself?" (Smith, [Link](#))
 - And so, Joseph was sharing what he thought was a revelation from God.



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- After sharing his first dream, the Bible says the brothers hated him even more.
 - Logically, Joseph had every reason to keep the second dream to himself.
 - But even though Joseph's brothers hated him for the first dream, he still shared God's revelation.
 - Because faithfulness means we share, even when people may not want to hear.
- In the same way, there will be times we need to share God's truth, even when we know others may disagree or even worse, not receive it well.
 - Is there someone we need to share God's word with today?
 - We may need to confront someone when their behavior is hurting those around them.
 - We may need to ask for outside help, when someone we love is living in sin and not listening.
 - We may need to correct someone during LIFE Group, when they say something that's Biblically off.
 - We will need to stand firm in what the Bible says, even when it's not popular with people around us.
 - We will need to share with others that Jesus Christ is the only way to life and salvation.



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- We need to always speak with gentleness and kindness.
 - We need to speak, not to put others down, but to lift others up.
 - But even then, it's possible people will not listen to God's truth.
- But think about this:
 - Even if people don't listen to God's word now.
 - It's possible later on, they will see God's hand in their lives.
 - And remembering what you said, they might come to believe in God.
 - You never know, how God may use your words.
- Isn't this what happened to Joseph's brothers?
 - If Joseph never spoke about his dreams, his brothers wouldn't have clearly seen God's hand working in their lives.
 - But as they saw God working in their lives.
 - As they bowed down before Joseph just as God revealed.
 - Can you imagine what they were thinking?
 - "God's word has come true."
 - "We tried to fight against God's word."
 - "We threw our brother into a pit."
 - "But even through our sin, God has shown grace to our family."



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- One Bible scholar writes:
 - “How else will the redemption of the brothers come about? Joseph must tell them the dream, so that when it comes true they see the hand of God at work and come to bow before him! In some sense, the redemption of the brothers hangs on the faithfulness of Joseph, who speaks the Word of God to them and puts up with their rejection.” (Smith, [Link](#))
- How can we honor God and find peace in the midst of conflict and brokenness?
 - We need to share God’s word with others.

Point 3:

- How can we honor God in the midst trials?
 - First, we need to seek the God of Jacob.
 - Second, we need to speak the truth to others.
 - And third, we need to search for those who reject us.
- In verse 12, we’re told the brothers were shepherding their flock near Shechem.
 - And so, Jacob sent Joseph to see if his sons were doing well.



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- If you remember, Shechem wasn't a safe place for Jacob's family.
 - This is the place where Simeon and Levi murdered all the men in the city.
 - And Jacobs said to them:
 - **"You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land..."** Genesis 34:30
 - Jacob's family had a target on their back.
 - And for whatever reason, the brothers were working in this dangerous place.
- And even though Joseph knew his brothers hated him.
 - He agreed to go.
 - He was willing to put himself in danger to make sure his brothers were okay.
 - But when he gets to Shechem, he found out from a certain man, his brothers went to Dothan.
 - And Joseph could've said:
 - "You know, I did what my father asked."
 - "I'll just go back and tell him I couldn't find them."
 - But instead, he continues to search for his brothers.
- In verse 4, the Bible says the brothers hated Joseph so much they couldn't speak peaceably to Joseph.
 - Can you imagine what this was like?
 - "Hey brothers."



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- “Shut up Joseph!”
 - “You’re so dumb Joseph!”
 - “Look, it’s Joseph our future king.”
 - Can you imagine the mocking he faced in his home?
- And yet, when the man in the field asks him:
 - **“What are you seeking?”** Genesis 37:15
 - He says:
 - **“I am seeking my brothers?”** Genesis 37:16
 - And so, Joseph goes all the way to Dothan to find his brothers.
- In fact, isn’t this what Jesus did for us as well?
 - He didn’t wait for us to come to him.
 - He came looking for us.
 - Jesus says:
 - **“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”** Luke 19:10
- And he didn’t only risk his life.
 - He gave his life.
 - He was rejected.
 - He was mocked.
 - He was hated.
 - And yet he gave his life for us.



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- When we face trials and disappointment.
 - The temptation will be to focus on ourselves.
 - To focus on our comfort.
 - To focus on our pain.
- But here, we see we can honor God by seeking our brothers and sisters.
 - By giving ourselves to make sure others are doing well.
- Here's what this means for us.
- It means we continue to care for those who are difficult to love.
 - I know there are people who are harder to love.
 - People who take more than they give.
 - Someone who constantly frustrates you.
 - Someone who treated you unfairly.
 - But God has called us to love, even when it's hard.
- It means we pursue brothers and sisters who are drifting away.
 - Is there someone at church you haven't seen for a while?
 - Instead of thinking:
 - "I'm sure someone else will reach out to them."
 - It might mean God is calling you to reach out to them.
 - To shoot them a text.
 - Don't we all have at least one person, that only we can reach?



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- Let's go to them.
- It means we show patience when others don't fully understand the truth.
 - It would take years for Joseph's brothers to see God's truth.
 - But God was patiently working in their lives.
 - And there may be people in your life who may not fully see their sin.
 - They may be slow to change.
 - But showing patience is one way we can seek and love others.
- It means we seek the good of others, even when they don't love us in return.
 - If Joseph held on to bitterness, their family would've died.
 - It would've been the end.
 - But Joseph loved, even when he gained power.
 - And he used that power to save their lives.
 - And it's when we seek the good of those who reject us, God may use our love to show them the grace of Jesus Christ.
- When people reject you, bitterness will never give you peace.
 - But by God's grace, you can continue loving them, and seeking their good, and entrusting the outcome to him.



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Point 4:

- Fourth and finally, you can honor God and find peace in your conflict and disappointment when you submit to God's providence.
- When the brothers saw Joseph coming to them, they conspired to kill their brother.
 - Fortunately, Reuben convinced them to throw him into a pit instead of killing him.
 - And eventually, they sold him into slavery.
- And one possible reason they went this far is because they felt there was some truth to Joseph's dream.
 - If they didn't believe his dream.
 - They could've just laughed it off.
 - But because they felt a hint of truth in Joseph's dream, they couldn't bear to bow to Joseph.
 - That's why after throwing him into the pit.
 - They don't talk about his robe.
 - They don't talk about their father's favoritism.
 - Rather, they speak about his dreams.
 - **"Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal devoured**



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him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.”

Genesis 37:20

- James Boice writes:
- “Since the brothers did hate Joseph, the implication is that they were actually taking the dreams seriously, as perhaps actually revealing what God might do...” (Boice, Genesis, 874)
- The brothers were essentially saying:
 - “I don’t know if this prophecy is true.”
 - “But we’ll make sure it doesn’t happen.”
- But do you see the irony?
 - By trying to stop God’s will, they were actually fulfilling God’s will.
 - They weren’t stopping the dreams from coming true.
 - They were actually making sure the dream came true.
- When you look through this chapter, God is never mentioned in this chapter.
 - God never speaks.
 - God never appears.
 - There’s no voice from heaven.
 - But you can’t help but see God’s hand in every scene.
- Think about everything that happened.



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- If Joseph never spoke about his dreams, his brothers might not have thought of killing him.
- And if his brothers didn't happen to be in Shechem, he wouldn't need to search for them.
- And if Joseph didn't run into this certain man at Shechem, he wouldn't have gone to Dothan.
- And if he didn't go to Dothan, his brothers wouldn't have thrown him into the pit.
- And if Reuben wasn't gone at the exact time this caravan of traders came by, Joseph wouldn't have been sold.
- And if this caravan wasn't headed to Egypt, Joseph wouldn't have ended up with Pharaoh.
- Do you see how God was working in Joseph's life?
 - God's name isn't mentioned in any verse.
 - And yet, you can't help but see God's sovereign hand.
 - Joseph couldn't see it in the pit, but God was sending Joseph to Egypt, not only to save his family but many people from a severe famine.
- In Genesis 42, we're told that Joseph's brothers saw his distress as he begged his brothers to save his life.
 - Can you imagine Joseph begging from the pit?
 - "Please brothers."
 - "Don't leave me here."
 - "I'm sorry for whatever I did."



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- “Please save my life.”
- And in Genesis 37 verse 25, it says the brothers sat down to eat, after throwing their brother in the pit.
 - They were eating their lunch, while their brother was begging from the pit.
- In the pit, Joseph wasn’t able to see all that God would do.
 - All he could feel was pain.
 - All he could see was the pit.
- When we face disappointment and conflict.
 - I know it can be discouraging.
 - It can make us anxious.
 - And most often, we won’t be able to see what’s ahead for us.
- But let’s remember even when it seems God is silent.
 - Christian brother and sister, God is always with you, and he’s working good in your life.
- And let’s also remember this is what Jesus Christ did as well.
 - It says in 2 Peter 2 verse 23:
 - **“When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”**



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- Jesus was betrayed.
- He was falsely accused.
- He was mocked and beaten.
- He was crucified.
- Yet, he kept trusting the Father.
- And because of that, Jesus didn't save us from a famine.
- He saved us from our sin.

- Whatever conflict you're facing today
 - Whatever anxiousness.
 - Whatever disappointment.
 - Whatever worry.
 - Whatever brokenness.
 - Submit to God's providence.
 - Trust God's timing.
 - Trust God's wisdom.
 - Wait for the lord.
 - Because even though you can't see it, God is finishing his good work in you.

- **"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord."** Psalm 40:1-3



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- How can we honor God and find peace in the midst of conflict and disappointment?
 - By seeking the God of Jacob.
 - By sharing his truth with others.
 - By searching after those who reject us.
 - And by submitting to God's providence.