

Pastor Ron Sunday, September 14, 2025

Life Is Not Fair But God Redeems

Genesis 42:1-28

Life is not fair for Joseph

- Rejection ([Brothers/Family](#))
- Betrayal ([Sold into slavery](#))
- Abandonment ([to a land and people he did not know](#))
- Injustice ([Potiphar's wife's false accusations](#))

What should we do when life is unfair?

- Get Real – Psalm 37
- Ask God to redeem – Psalm 107:2
- Take a step – Matt 6:33 ([scripture, biblical counseling, serve/volunteer](#))
- Be grateful – I Thess 5:18

Joseph's life is a foreshadowing of Christ, and his family discovers the following

- He suffers
- He lives
- He rules
- He forgives
- He saves

Genesis 50:18-20

Sermon Discussion Questions

Life is Not Fair, but God Redeems

Pastor Ron Holton Sunday, September 15, 2025

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Scripture passages: Genesis 42:1-25, Psalm 37, Psalm 107:1-2, Matthew 6:33, 1 Thess 5:18

Have different people read the verses above aloud, prior to beginning discussion:

1. What was one thing you learned from this sermon &/or scripture passage? How are these scriptures encouraging to you this week?
2. If you were Joseph, how would you feel about your brothers at this time? What different kinds of fears are mentioned and/or implied in Genesis Chapter 42? (see vs 2, 4, 18-22, 28)
3. How does the life of Joseph foreshadow or point us to the life of Jesus?
4. How did Joseph's past hardships prepare him for his role in Egypt?
5. Why is it so easy for us to confuse God's silence with God's absence? Discuss.
6. In Genesis 42, Joseph tests his brothers to see if they had changed. When someone breaks your trust, how do you determine if they've changed? What qualities or actions show godly sorrow and true repentance to you?
7. What four things did Pastor Ron encourage us to do when life is not fair? Which one is most difficult for you in times of discouragement?
8. What have you done with the rejection, abandonment or betrayal you have experienced in life?
9. What would it look like if you felt permission to "get real" with God? What is the difference between venting and lamenting?
10. God allows the famine to bring Joseph's brothers to Egypt, orchestrating multiple traumatic events for a greater purpose. Can you think of a challenging situation in your life that later made sense in hindsight? How does this passage encourage you to trust God's timing and purpose?
11. In our small group, how can we prepare now for 'seasons of famine' or hard times that may be ahead? How can we serve those who are struggling around us?

For further application & next steps

- Prayerfully consider, in what ways can you relate to the fears and regrets of Joseph's brothers? Are there things from your past that still bring feelings of guilt or regret?
- Journal prompt: Jacob's fear prevented him from sending Benjamin to Egypt initially. Are there fears or anxieties that hold you back from trusting God fully? How does this passage encourage you to let go of them?
- Pastor Ron exhorted us to learn to lament, and reminded us that what is not transformed is transferred. What is one next step you can take to seek freedom, healing &/or reconciliation? Who can you share this next step with for accountability purposes?