**Sermon Series “Legendary 2”**

**Joseph…God meant it for Good.**

**Have you ever been in a pit? Growing up on the farm there were many times we would have to dig holes in the dirt. Sometimes we would dig a hole to dump trees into burn, or other times we would dig a hole to build a new hog building with a big manure pit attached. My brothers and I would think it was fun to jump down and run around in the hole. But after a while the fun was over, and it was time to get out. At that time, we would yell for dad to drop a ladder down so we could get out. One time my brother climbed up first and pulled the ladder up and just waved to be funny. For a moment, the thought of being stuck down in this pit caused panic in my mind and I start to sweat a little, because you look around and see. “I can’t get out of here, I cannot climb up these walls they are too tall”.**

**Maybe you have not been physically in a big hole before, but I am guessing we can all relate to feeling like we have been in a hole at times in our life. We have either experienced being in a hole, or we are currently feeling today, like we are in a hole, or sometime in the future we find ourselves in a hole and wonder how we got into it.**

**“YOU WILL GET THROUGH THIS”**

**Today we are going to look at a Legendary Character in the Bible who found himself starting out in life in a pit. and throughout his life found himself in more holes than I am sure he wanted to be in. His name is Joseph**

**As we dive into the story of Joseph, I want to highlight the Bible study on Tuesday Nights led by Beth Muilenburg. The study is Called “You will get through this” It’s funny I have looked at this study about Joseph and you would think it was written just for today as our world goes through uncertainty and fear and the wonder of how we get out of this hole we are in. If you need to be encouraged, I strongly suggest you join these last four sessions on Tuesday Night in the Harbor at 7pm. Contact the church if you would like to sign up for these last sessions. Or just go on the Right Now Media yourself and watch them with your family.**

**I want to Share a Creed that came out of the Max Lucado Bible study that they say together each session it’s called “You will get through this”**

**It says:**

**CREED**

**“You will get through this. It won’t be painless. It won’t be quick.**

**But God will use this mess for good.**

**In the meantime, don’t be foolish or naïve. But don’t despair either.**

**With God’s help, You will get through this.”**

**Max Lucado**

**Let’s Pray together, as we dive in this morning.**

**The Story of Joseph=Genesis 37-50**

**The story starts off with=**

*3Jacob[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37&version=NLT#fen-NLT-1087a)*] loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe.[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37&version=NLT#fen-NLT-1087b)*] 4But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn’t say a kind word to him.*

**Right away the story of Joseph starts off bad. This does not sound like we should get parenting advice from Jacob. First, Dad says I want to let everyone know I like Joseph the most of all my children. Why did Jacob like Joseph the best? Well, we know why Joseph was the oldest son of Rachel who was Jacobs favorite wife another problem by the way (because he had 2 wives) but he also had children with 2 other ladies not his wives. So you can image the relationships with in the Jacob household were not very good. Lots of anger I am guessing and who is better than who.**

**But gets worse:**

**“Dad not only says he has a favorite son, but decides to make it more obvious by getting him a nice shiny coat to wear to remind everyone each day that Joseph was the favorite. Wonder if he had his name put on the back to with it embroidered “Favorite Son”**

**I am guessing Joseph wore that coat with pride. “Look at me I have a nice shiny coat.”**

**But scripture tells us that Joseph continues to add to the problem:**

**5**One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. **6**“Listen to this dream,” he said. **7**“We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!” **(Can you see that This is not going to go well, maybe he should have just kept this information to himself)**

**8**His brothers responded, “So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

**9**Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. “Listen, I have had another dream,” he said. “The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!”

**10**This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. “What kind of dream is that?” he asked. “Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?” **11**But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

**Joseph was trying to let his family know what God was trying to say to him. But I am guessing they were not seeing it that way. Normal families would be like whatever very funny, like that will ever happen. But instead Joseph as he told about his dreams somehow accomplished getting his whole family mad at him and not just a little mad, but extremely mad.**

**Which leads us to Josephs first pit.**

**18**When Joseph’s brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. **19**“Here comes the dreamer!” they said. **20**“Come on, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, ‘A wild animal has eaten him.’ Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!”

**21**But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph’s rescue. “Let’s not kill him,” he said. **22**“Why should we shed any blood? Let’s just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he’ll die without our laying a hand on him.” Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

**23**So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. **24**Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. **25**Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them.

**26**Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37&version=NLT#fen-NLT-1110c)] **27**Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!” And his brothers agreed. **28**So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37&version=NLT#fen-NLT-1112d)] of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

**Joseph is gone. His brothers are glad. They were happy because they even made some money out of the deal.**

**39**When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

**2**The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. **3**Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. **4**This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. **5**From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master’s household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar’s household for Joseph’s sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. **6**So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

**God was with Joseph. Joseph is at the top of his game now. He has gotten out of the pit and life could not have been going better for him. I even wonder, if he had ever looked back at the pit and said only if my brothers could see me now. But things were about to turn for Joseph.**

**You see Potiphar’s wife kinda thought Joseph was a hottie. Scripture even mentioned this that Joseph was handsome and well-built man and Potiphar’s wife agreed. In fact she wanted to (well will just say kiss him a lot). She kept pressuring him each day that he would come to work. “Joseph, Joseph honey, please, please just pretty please Kiss me a little”**

**Scripture says: 8**But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. **9**No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”

**Right about now you really kinda start to like Joseph. He is a good moral guy, he might have been a little cocky at the start, but he is making the right choice even with all the temptation and pressure that he is dealing with. He knows this would be wrong in God’s eyes and so he keeps fighting off the temptation.**

**But Potiphar’s wife does not give up she continues to try and get Joseph to kiss her, and one day when nobody else was in the house she pounced on him. And Joseph did the right thing and he ran out the door. And as he ran she grabbed his coat right off his back as he continued to run out.**

**Joseph did the right thing, but the tables where going to be turned. Potiphar’s wife because she was so mad at Joseph told a big, huge lie about Joseph to her husband which landed him back in the pit (the Pit of prison) with no way to get out.**

**21**But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. **22**Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. **23**The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

**Joseph was in a Pit again, but God throws him a ladder.**

**5**While they were in prison, Pharaoh’s cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning. **6**When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. **7**“Why do you look so worried today?” he asked them.

**8**And they replied, “We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean.”

“Interpreting dreams is God’s business,” Joseph replied. “Go ahead and tell me your dreams.”

**Notice how Joseph gives credit to God,** “Interpreting dreams is God’s business,” **even when he is currently in the pit, the pit of prison Joseph still knows that God is in control.**

**So, Joseph interpreted the dream and he said to the Chief cup bearer. 14** Please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. **15**For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I’m here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it.”

**Joseph thought for a moment there he might have his big break and get released from prison. But the cup bearer he helped forgot all about it till 2 years later when Pharaoh was talking out loud one day and the Cup-bearer remembered Joseph who was still in prison.**

**Genesis 41**

**14**Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. **15**Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it.”

**16**“It is beyond my power to do this,” Joseph replied. “But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease.” **Again even when Joseph is still in the pit he is giving credit to God.**

**17**So Pharaoh told Joseph his dream. “In my dream,” he said, “I was standing on the bank of the Nile River, **18**and I saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. **19**But then I saw seven sick-looking cows, scrawny and thin, come up after them. I’ve never seen such sorry-looking animals in all the land of Egypt. **20**These thin, scrawny cows ate the seven fat cows. **21**But afterward you would not have known it, for they were still as thin and scrawny as before! Then I woke up.

**Is not that so cool. As a kid I was always trying to imagine what that would have looked like in a cartoon movie. Pharaoh has a second dream same results but instead of cows it is of grain. But for some reason I never thought as a kid that the grain was as cool.**

**28**“This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. **29**The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity throughout the land of Egypt. **30**But afterward there will be seven years of famine so great that all the prosperity will be forgotten in Egypt. Famine will destroy the land. **31**This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased.

 **39**Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. **40**You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours.”

**Joseph is out of the pit again. Back on top of the world. He is second in command of all of Egypt. In fact, if you where making a movie out of this story you could stop right here and it would have a great plot. Good guy, gets into a pit, gets out, rises to the top, gets knocked down again and thrown into a pit, gets backup again shakes the dust off and climbs even higher and wins the game at the end. Roll the credits. Everyone has shed some tears along the way and the good guy wins. Jay is happy and his heart is overjoyed for Joseph.**

**But God does not stop the film there, the movie continues.**

**The Seven Good years happen, the Seven bad years are starting in the land of Egypt.**

**42**When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you standing around looking at one another? **2**I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we’ll die.” So Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt

**6**Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground. **7**Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where are you from?” he demanded.

“From the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We have come to buy food.”

**8**Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn’t recognize him.

**Here in the story I believe we see Joseph as a human, where his hurt finally form his past is going to come out, he wants a little human revenge to mess with his brothers. Kinda scare them, have them feel a little like he did when he was down in the pit.**

And he remembered the dreams he’d had about them many years before. He said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become.”

**10**“No, my lord!” they exclaimed. “Your servants have simply come to buy food. **11**We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!”

**12**“Yes, you are!” Joseph insisted. “You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become.”

**13**“Sir,” they said, “there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us.”

**At this point, If I was Joseph, I would have had to ask, “Well tell me what happened to the brother that is no longer with you?” Was he a really nice guy? Why did you do such a mean thing to him? But instead he did not say anything but put them in prison for three days.**

 21The brothers said “Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn’t listen. That’s why we’re in this trouble.”

**22**“Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy?” Reuben asked. “But you wouldn’t listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!”

**23**Of course, they didn’t know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. **24**Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again.

**Joseph wanted to mess with them even more and he put the money back that they paid in their sacks with the grain. When they got home they found it, and feared they would be in big trouble again. So they returned to Egypt with extra goods to give to Joseph and the original payment for the grain.**

**The brothers were scared to death that Joseph would make them his slaves when they returned.**

**When they returned the household manager greeted them as they were shaking in their boots.**

**23**“Relax. Don’t be afraid,” the household manager told them. “Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks. I know I received your payment.”

**Joseph continued to mess with his brothers and put his silver cup in his youngest brothers Benjamins sack this time and sent them home. But he also sent his Palace Master to go after them and stop them and search their sacks and bring them back again for stealing. After all this back and forth, Joseph felt he had questioned them enough.**

**45**Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. **2**Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

**3**“I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. **4**“Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. **5**But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.

**7**God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+45&version=NLT#fen-NLT-1366a)] **8**So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+45&version=NLT#fen-NLT-1367b)] to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

**“God has sent me ahead of you”**

**God’s guarantee is that He will be with you, even when the circumstances do not look great. God seems to take his time with our lives when we are always in a hurry. He seems to take us on a journey so we can learn and prepare us for something great in our lives. He uses the tough times in our lives to teach us and shape us. But how we look at these situations makes all the difference. Do we see God even when the situation around us is not good. From the beginning of this story Joseph held on to the dream that God spoke to him that He had everything under control. His life was in a pit, was put in prison, but through it all hung on to God’s promise that He was walking with him.**

**God uses tough times for our develop and reuses them to accomplish His purpose. He uses the big pits in our lives and turns it into good.**

Romans 8:28 New Living Translation (NLT)

**28**And we know that God causes everything to work together[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A28&version=NLT#fen-NLT-28106a)] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

**God is the only one who will help us through these tough times, the pits we find ourselves in throughout our lives.**

**What others or the world intends for Evil God intends for good. God is the center of this story. He is the one that remains faithful through all the pits or holes that we find ourselves in.**

**As we think about all that is going on in the world write now with Covid-19, Violence, and unrest. “We will get through this”**

**As we think about the stuff that our friends, family members, fellow brothers, and sisters in Christ. “You will Get through this”**

**As we think about our own lives and the challenges each one of us face. “I will get through this.”**

**Let us close all together whether you are watching at home or here in the sanctuary the creed using “We, You, Or I, will get through this” in unison.**

**CREED**

**“I’ll get through this. It won’t be painless. It won’t be quick.**

**But God will use this mess for good.**

**In the meantime, don’t be foolish or naïve. But don’t despair either.**

**With God’s help, I will get through this.”**

**AMEN.**