

GENESIS 50:20

HOW BELIEF IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE IMPACTS THE WAY WE SUFFER

SYNOPSIS

In Genesis 50:20, Joseph looks back on decades of betrayal, injustice, and suffering and declares that what others meant for evil, God meant for good. This sermon closes our study of Genesis by exploring how belief in God's providence shapes the way we suffer. After tracing Joseph's life from favored son to slave, prisoner, and ruler, we define God's providence as his intentional sovereignty over all things. Finally, we apply this doctrine to our own suffering by confronting three lies we often believe and seeing how God's purposes, fulfilled ultimately in Christ, give meaning, hope, and confidence even in our darkest seasons.

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

- Closing the book of Genesis
- The significance of one verse at the end of the story
- Genesis 50:20 as experiential doctrine

I. THE STORY OF JOSEPH

In this section we will recap the story of Joseph which begins back in Genesis 37 and runs through Genesis 50.

II. THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- Defining providence
- Tracing God's providence through scripture
- This doctrine undergirded Joseph's life.

III. APPLYING PROVIDENCE TO OUR SUFFERING

- God is the Master Artist. Every brushstroke has a purpose even when we can't see it while the painting is in development.
- Three lies we believe

- God has turned his back on us
- God cannot or will not redeem our story
- We are the center of our story

CONCLUSION

- Genesis as our family story in Christ
- God's covenant faithfulness continues
- These promises now belong to the Church
- Let this story shape how we suffer, trust, and hope

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is Genesis 50:20 such a significant verse for understanding suffering and God's character?
- How does Joseph's long story help us avoid short sighted conclusions about our own suffering?
- Which of the three lies do you find most tempting to believe during difficult seasons, and why?
- How does the cross of Christ reshape the way we interpret pain, loss, and apparent failure?
- What would it look like this week to live as if God, not you, is at the center of your story?