



**Then and Now – Sovereign
Sermon Discussion Questions – May 29, 2022**

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 39:7–10 (NLT) ⁷ and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. 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.” ¹⁰ She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

Genesis 39:21 (NLT) 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.

Genesis 50:15–21 (NLT) ¹⁵ But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said. ¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us ¹⁷ to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. ¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

Revelation 21:3–7 (NLT) ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Numbers 6:24–26 (NIV84) ²⁴ “The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” ’

Warm Up

This week Pastor Tom started off his message with examples of funny bumper stickers. Just for fun, what are some of the most entertaining bumper stickers you have seen? What bumper stickers do you have on your own car, if any?

Discussion

- 1) Pastor Tom started off this message by talking about the story of Joseph. Take a few minutes to summarize what you know of the story of Joseph. (Hint, if needed skim Genesis 37-50). What parts of this story do you find most encouraging and why? What parts of Joseph’s story do you relate to and why?
- 2) Toward the beginning of this message, Pastor Tom made this statement: *We need more than a God who is waiting for us to let go. We need a God who is, Sovereign.* What is the difference between a God who is waiting for us to let go and one who is Sovereign? How would you describe sovereignty to someone else? What do you find most comforting or discouraging about God’s sovereignty?
- 3) Read Genesis 39:7-10. What happens in these verses? Pastor Tom made the point that Joseph did the right thing and bad things still happened. Can you think of some times in your life when that was the case? How did that impact your relationship with God?
- 4) Excerpt from Pastor Tom’s message: *Instead of letting Go and Letting God, Joseph held on to two things. God’s Sovereignty and Our Responsibility* What did it look like for Joseph to hold these two things in tension? What might it look like for us to hold onto God’s sovereignty and our responsibility? If you can think of practical examples, take a few minutes to share those.
- 5) Read Genesis 50:15-21. What can we learn about God’s sovereignty from Joseph’s response to his brothers? How might our understanding of this story impact the way we handle challenges that come our way?

- 6) Toward the end of his message Pastor Tom shared this quote from AW Tozer: "Anything God has ever done he can do now. Anything God has ever done anywhere, he can do here. Anything God has ever done for anyone, he can do for you."

How might this quote encourage you in the midst of a challenge? How might it frustrate you? What perspective did Pastor Tom offer related to God's action?

- 7) Excerpt from Pastor Tom's Message:

God is doing something right now through his church.

God will do something when King Jesus returns.

How do these two statements impact your view of God's sovereignty? What are some things you see God doing right now through his Church? (not just ALIVE, but ALIVE and beyond)

- 8) Read Revelation 21:3-7.

According to this passage, what are some things that God is going to do? How might knowing this impact your view of your circumstances and God's sovereignty?

Next Steps:

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend
And I know that He is with me,
Will be with me to the end.

What might it look like for you to trust Jesus? How might God be calling you to hang onto his sovereignty and your responsibility?