



**Punched – A Conflict**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions – September 4<sup>th</sup> 2022**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Genesis 39:21-23**

The Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

**Genesis 39:11-12**

One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

**Genesis 37:19-20**

"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

**Genesis 50:20-21**

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

## **Luke 6:27-28**

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

### **Warm Up:**

1. Goodbye August and hello September! It’s crazy to believe 2022 is coming to a close at a rapid pace. What things are you still planning to do for the remainder of 2022?

### **Discussion:**

1. Pastor Tom began by introducing topics that have brought a lot of conflict the past few years. What initial emotions surfaced for you as he mentioned these conflicts? What do we do with these emotions as Christians?
2. “Once you have the right relationship with God through salvation and sanctification, remember that whatever your circumstances may be, you have been placed in them by God. And God uses the reaction of your life to your circumstances to fulfill his purpose, as long as you continue to ‘walk in the light as He is in the light’ (1 John 1:7)” – Oswald Chambers. What are your reactions to this quote? How might God want to use conflict to change you or to make you holy?
3. Read Genesis 39:21-23. In this passage Joseph is currently in prison for something he didn’t do, but these words are said about him. The Lord was with him, shown kindness, had received favor, was given responsibility, and had success. Do you long to have these things in your life? Have you seen or heard God say or reveal these things to you in the midst of your conflict?
4. “When we are in conflict, we are not only acted upon, we are acting” -Pastor Tom. How do you typically react to conflict? Joseph was mistreated by many people which could have built up anger, resentment, bitterness, etc. Rather than reacting in a typical way we expect, he reacts in a way that went against the grain. What would it look like to react to conflict that shows the light of Jesus?
5. Pastor Tom declares, “Our lives are to be governed by the cross and by the perfection of the Father.” What would it look like to let the Word of God define us from within and allow our response to be an outpouring of that?
6. “To go forward is to choose your own behavior, not according to what was done to you... but according to the way that is in you. To go forward is to be free”- Pastor Tom. Many times, when conflict arises, we want to hold on to it, defend our side, or create an argument. Have you ever latched on to a conflict to state your case, even the score, or get the last word? Have you ever spent significant time on thinking about how to come back? When we go forward from conflict, we find freedom. What kind of things do you think we get freedom from going forward?

7. Read Genesis 50:20-21. Joseph's response to his brothers here is not one of getting them back, but rather knowing God used this conflict to shape him.  
How does Joseph's response feel challenging to you? How does Joseph's response feel freeing to you? How could you respond more like Joseph in moments of conflict?
  
8. Read Luke 6:27-28.  
What might be your initial reactions to Jesus saying this? This sounds hard or seems to be a great risk. This is because we love to respond in a similar manner in which people respond to us. Jesus is providing a different way for us to respond. How might you lean into these things Jesus is calling us to?

***Next Steps:***

Spend some time with God as you are reflecting on these questions.

1. What conflict am I currently still holding on to?
2. What emotions am I feeling currently when thinking about this conflict?
3. How might God want to use this conflict to show me something about Him or love this person in a new way?
4. How can I respond to this conflict in a way that is honoring to God and loving a neighbor well?