

When Believing is Seeing

Scripture used: Genesis 39:2-6

OVERVIEW

This week, guest speaker, Kirk Perry, President of Google Brand Solutions, shared his testimony of triumph and tragedy reminds us that God is with us through every peak and valley! He shared how his daughter's bout with cancer had brought him to a relationship with Christ. He has learned that the conventional wisdom of the world tells us one thing, but God's currency tells us another. The world tells us that "seeing is believing," while God's wisdom tells us that "believing is seeing" (Heb. 11:1). The world tells us we don't have to suffer inconveniences and struggles instantaneously.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Following God is not without struggle - Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers, into a land with pagan gods and a different language. He was falsely accused of a crime and sent to prison, then helped an inmate to get out of prison, but this inmate forgot about helping him. Throughout all of this, Joseph knew that God was with him. God doesn't cause struggle in our lives, but He is with us in it.
- 2) Always look up toward God first - In every situation that Joseph was in, he knew that God was with him and gave all credit to God for giving him favor. In every situation, run after God and not away from Him.
- 3) Trust that God will work it out in the end - God takes things that feel painful and messy, and He redeems them (Romans 8:28). "It will all work out in the end. If it hasn't worked out, it's not the end," - Anonymous.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Is there any part of Kirk's testimony that you can relate to? Briefly share a time when you were going through a struggle. Did God seem near or far?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** The world tells us that seeing is believing, but God tells us that believing is seeing. Read Romans 8:28. Where in your life have you had to believe God for something you had not seen? What was the result? Did it come to pass or are you still waiting? What did you learn, or are learning, from the process?
- 3) **DO and PRAY**
 - Challenge: Read Gen 37-47
 - Be Jesus to someone you know who is hurting. Tell them, "I can't imagine how tough this is. You will get through it, though. When you are at your lowest, know that I am praying for you."
 - Have a "picture of the day" with our family at dinner. Share how you saw God at work.
 - Continue our 30 day challenge to pray, "Lord, show me the right path, give me the wisdom to know the next step, and the courage to take it."