

July 10, 2016

Series: But God

Sermon Title: *Use It or be Used by It!*

Key Scripture: Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

²⁰"You intended to harm me, *BUT GOD* intended it for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

The Key: Opportunities are hidden in every obstacle

When Life is hard-TRUST NOT RUST

Genesis 37:20 (NRSV) ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

Genesis 37:27 (NRSV) ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed.

Genesis 37:36 (NRSV) ³⁶Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

Genesis 39:20 (NRSV) ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison.

When Life is great-DEFINE IT OR BE DEFINED BY IT

Genesis 39:4 (NRSV) ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

Genesis 40:8 (NRSV) ⁸They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

Genesis 41:16 (NRSV) ¹⁶Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

What has God MADE you?

Manasseh-God has made me forget all my hardship

Ephraim-God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortune

When opportunity comes-BE BETTER NOT BITTER

Genesis 39:2 (NRSV) ²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

Genesis 39:21 (NRSV) ²¹But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

Genesis 45:5 (NRSV) ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 48:21 (NRSV) ²¹Then Israel said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your ancestors.

Genesis 50:20 (NRSV) ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

Acts 7:9 (NRSV) ⁹"The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt, BUT GOD was with him.

Challenge Questions:

How will you trust when it is hard to see God?

How will you make sure to give glory to God when life is good?

What has God made in you that you can celebrate?

How can you seek opportunities in your obstacles?

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The Vision of Clearbranch UMC is Transformed Lives offering the Transforming Love of Christ.