

Series: Increase

Echo Church | Week 37 | September 14, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Planted and Preserved for Increase” | Genesis 37:5-10; 19-20; 23-34, Genesis 45:5, 8, Genesis 50:19-21 (NKJV)

Introduction

Joseph’s story is one of favor, faith, and frustration. He was a young man with a God-given dream, but his journey to fulfillment was anything but smooth. In Genesis 37:5-10, we see Joseph sharing his dreams with his brothers, dreams that symbolized his future elevation. However, instead of celebrating him, his brothers despised him.

When Joseph shared his dreams with his brothers, they didn’t celebrate him; they despised him. Genesis 37:11 says, “And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.” Their envy turned into hatred, and their hatred led them to plot against him.

This is a reality many believers face today. When God places favor on your life, it often stirs up opposition from those around you. People may envy your calling, misunderstand your purpose, or even try to sabotage your progress. Favor doesn’t mean the absence of friction; it means God’s hand is on you even in the midst of it.

Think about the workplace. You might be the one who gets the promotion, the recognition, or the opportunity, and instead of support, you’re met with gossip, jealousy, or exclusion. Favor can feel isolating, but it’s also a sign that God is preparing you for something greater.

“Favor doesn’t exempt you from opposition; it equips you to overcome it.”

Points

1. Buried to Bloom

Scripture: Genesis 37:23-24

Joseph’s brothers stripped him of his coat and threw him into a pit. In their minds, they were discarding him, but in God’s plan, they were planting him. The pit was not a place of death; it was a place of preparation. Seeds are buried in the ground, not to be forgotten, but to bloom in due season.

In ancient times, pits or cisterns were often used to store water, but when they were dry, they became empty, desolate spaces. Joseph’s brothers used the pit as a means to isolate and discard him, but God used it as the first step in Joseph’s journey toward increase. The pit was a hidden place, much like the soil that hides a seed, but it was also a place where God’s plan began to take root.

Many of us experience “pit seasons” in life—times when we feel isolated, forgotten, or buried under the weight of our circumstances. But just like a seed in the ground, those seasons are where God does His best work. The pit is where character is developed, faith is strengthened, and roots are established.

“The pit isn’t your burial ground; it’s your breakthrough ground.”

Supporting Scripture: John 12:24 – “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

2. Sold but Not Stolen

Scripture: Genesis 37:28

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, but what they didn’t realize is that they couldn’t sell what God had already secured. His destiny wasn’t in their hands; it was in God’s.

In the ancient world, being sold into slavery was often seen as the end of one’s identity and future. For Joseph, however, it was the beginning of God’s divine positioning. The Ishmaelites who purchased him were unknowingly transporting him to the very place where his dream would be fulfilled. What looked like a setback was actually a setup for increase.

You may feel like life has “sold” you into situations you didn’t choose—whether it’s a toxic environment, a health challenge, or a betrayal. But remember, what’s in you is ordained by God, and no one can take it away. Just as Joseph’s journey to Egypt was part of God’s plan, the challenges you face are part of the process to position you for your purpose.

“You may be sold out, but you’re never sold short when God is in control.”

Supporting Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7 – “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

3. The Dream is Bigger Than You

Scripture: Genesis 45:5, 8

When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, he acknowledged that his journey wasn’t just about him. God had sent him ahead to preserve life. The dream God gives is never just for the dreamer; it’s for the people connected to the dream.

In Joseph’s time, Egypt was a superpower, and the famine that struck the region could have devastated nations. God used Joseph to position Egypt as a place of provision, not just for

his family, but for countless others. Joseph's dream was a seed that grew into a tree of provision for many.

Your dream isn't just about your success; it's about the lives God wants to impact through you. When you see your dream as part of God's bigger plan, it shifts your perspective and strengthens your faith. Whether it's a business idea, a ministry, or a creative project, God's purpose is always to bless others through you.

"God's dream for your life is a thread in the tapestry of His kingdom."

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 3:20 – "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

4. What They Meant for Evil, God Used for Good

Scripture: Genesis 50:19-20

Joseph's brothers intended to harm him, but God used their actions to position him for his purpose. The very thing they thought would destroy him became the platform for his destiny.

In the ancient Near East, family betrayal was one of the deepest forms of dishonor. Joseph's brothers thought they were erasing his future, but God was orchestrating events to fulfill His promise. The betrayal became the bridge to Joseph's breakthrough.

The setbacks in your life—whether caused by others or by circumstances—are not wasted. God has a way of repurposing pain for His glory and your good. That betrayal, that loss, that disappointment—it's all part of the process to bring about God's increase in your life.

"God doesn't just redeem your pain; He repositions it for purpose."

Supporting Scripture: Romans 8:28 – "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

5. Trust the Process for the Promise

Scripture: Genesis 50:21

Joseph reassured his brothers that God had a plan all along. The process may not make sense, but it's necessary for the promise to be fulfilled.

Joseph's journey from the pit to the palace was filled with detours—slavery, false accusations, and imprisonment. Yet, every step was part of God's process to prepare him for leadership. The process preserved him so that he could preserve others.

When you're in the middle of the process, it's easy to lose sight of the promise. But God is faithful. Trust that He is working behind the scenes, even when you can't see it. The process is not punishment; it's preparation.

"The process may feel like a detour, but it's actually the direct route to your destiny."

Supporting Scripture: Galatians 6:9 – "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Conclusion

Joseph's story is a powerful reminder that what looks like a delay is often God's way of preserving us for the right time. Preservation extends the shelf life of something, ensuring that it's ready when it's needed most.

Think about food that's preserved—it may sit on the shelf for months or even years, but when the time comes, it's still good, still useful, and still able to nourish. In the same way, God preserves us through the process so that we're ready for the increase when the time is right.

Call to Action:

- Reflect on the "pits" in your life. What if they're not punishment but preparation?
- Surrender your dream to God and trust His process.
- Remember that your dream is not just about you—it's about the lives God wants to impact through you.

"What they meant for evil, God meant for good. Your dream is planted, preserved, and positioned for increase. Trust the God of the process, because He is also the God of the promise."