

# When Your Dream Turns into a Nightmare

Dr. Tom Roxas | Genesis 37-40

## MESSAGE

Watch the sermon. As you watch, use the outline to follow along or take notes on anything that stands out to you.

## NOTES

We all have hopes and dreams of how life should or could be, and expectations of how it will come to fruition. But at some point in our lives, our dreams seem to turn into nightmares. When this happens, we need to practice the presence of God, as demonstrated by Joseph in the book of Genesis.

Nightmares Experienced by Joseph (Genesis 37-40):

1. Mistreatment by his brothers
2. Thrown into the pit of rejection
3. Sold and exiled into a foreign territory
4. Lost his identity
5. Slavery to an unwanted job
6. Punished for doing what is right
7. Forgotten by the people he helped

Contrast between Judah in Genesis 38 and Joseph in Genesis 39:

1. Judah left his brothers (v. 38:1)
2. Married a Canaanite woman (v. 38:2)
3. Bore sons who were wicked and God put them to death (v. 38:4-9)
4. Wife Shua died (v. 38:12)
5. Broke his promise to Tamar to give his last son, Shelah (v. 38:11-14)

6. Committed incest with his daughter-in-law who pretended to be a prostitute (v. 38:15-26)

What was absent in Judah that was present in Joseph is God's presence. (Genesis 39:2-3, 21, 23)

We cannot enter into the presence of God while we are rebelling against God.

How Joseph Practiced the Presence of God:

1. He willingly submitted himself to God's sovereign plans.
2. He cooperated with God and involved God's presence in everything he did.
3. He resolved not to sin against God.
4. He practiced intimacy with God in the good as well as the bad times.
5. He was so God-centered.

God was with Joseph because Joseph was with God.

## REFLECT and DISCUSS

1. Take a few minutes to talk about the message.
  - o What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?
  - o How have you been experiencing the presence or "absence" of God in your life, family, and ministry? Is your heart more like Judah or Joseph's?
2. How have you involved God in your decisions and actions? What were the results? Is there anything you want to change?
3. What resolve do you need to have in the area where you struggle with temptation the most? Are there any sins you need to repent from in order to live in God's presence consistently?

## PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer.