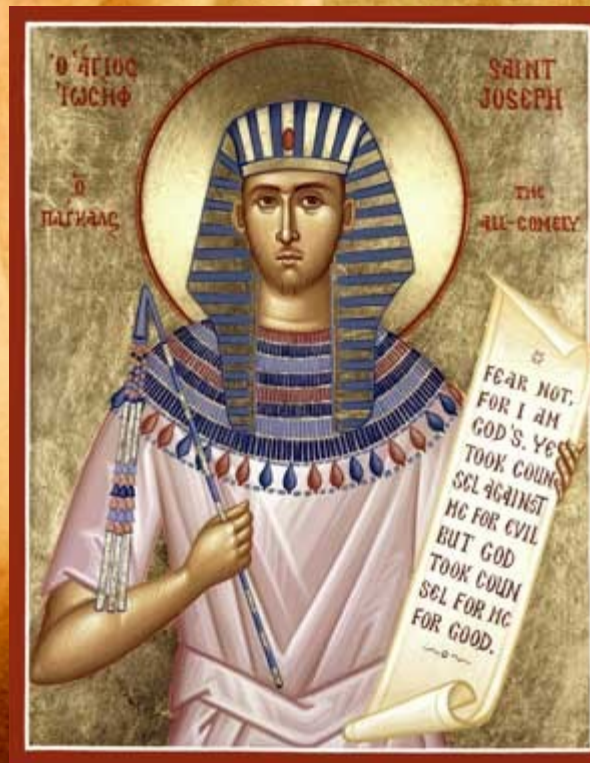


Blessing and Trials: How God Makes Us Stronger

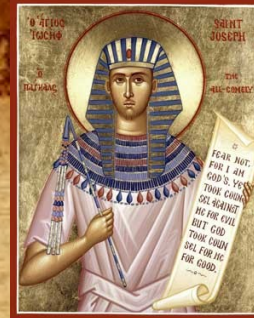
Joseph the Patriarch

Genesis 39:1-23

Ehab Roufail



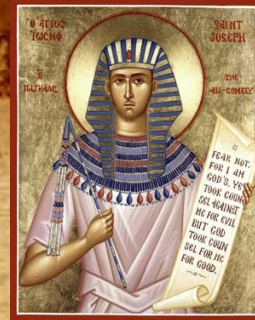
Genesis 39 & 40



- The importance of these chapters cannot be overstated!
 - Joseph's experiences show how God prepares us to be the person we should be and to do the work we have been called to do
- God prepares us by doing four things

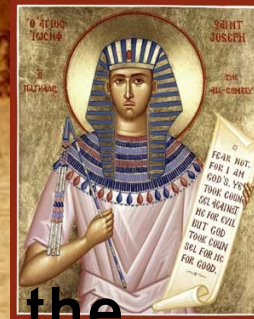


God takes the blessings and trials of everyday life



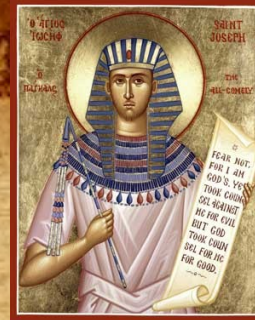
- To purge the sin from our life
- To teach us whatever we need to learn to become the worker and servant and leader God wants us to be
 - Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope

God takes the blessings and trials of everyday life



- To strengthen us to make better decisions in the future
 - God wants to entrust us with more and more
 - Every tough experience is to help us to make future decisions
- To teach us the greatest of all lessons:
 - That He and He alone can take care of everything, both now and eternally
 - That we must trust Him
 - God has both the knowledge (omniscience) and the power (omnipotence) to work all things out for good

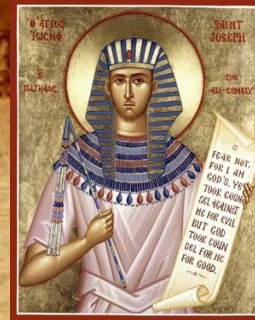
God Made Joseph Stronger



- 1. Through Blessings
 - He learned leadership and hard work (v.1-6)
- 2. Through Temptation
 - He learned self-discipline, and control (v.7-12)
- 3. Through Trials
 - He learned of humiliation and compassion (v.13-20)
- 4. Through God's Presence
 - He learned to depend more and more upon God (v.21-23)

1. Through Blessings

He learned leadership and hard work (vv. 1-6)



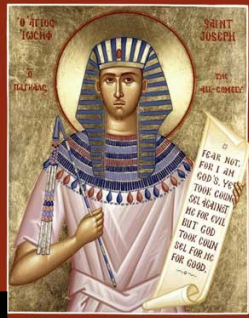
- **Sharing God's Blessing**

- Joseph's brothers considered him to be a trouble-maker
- In Egypt, he was a source of blessing because God was with him
- Like the blessed man described in Psalm 1, everything he did prospered

- **Psalms 1:3**

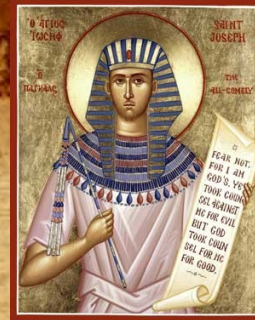
- *He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.*

Sharing God's Blessings



- Joseph - a believer who trusted God and made the best of his difficult circumstances
 - He made the best of his circumstances and God blessed him
- The blessing of the Lord was very evident to the people in Potiphar's household
 - Potiphar turned more and more responsibility over to Joseph

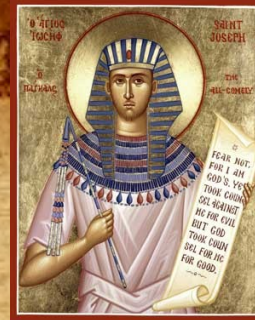
Sharing God's Blessings



- **Joseph was a testimony to the true and living God**
 - He was an honest and faithful worker, and the people he lived and worked with got the message
 - God took note of Joseph's character and conduct and made him a blessing

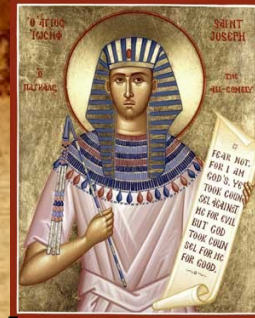


God's Method



- Faithful service was also a blessing to Joseph himself
 - What if Joseph had stayed home with his father?
 - He might not have developed the kind of character that comes from hard work and obeying orders

God's Method



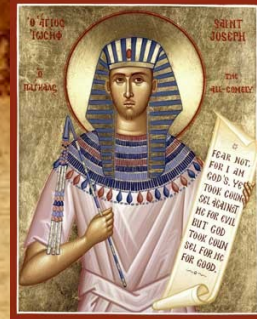
- God's method for building us is to give us a job to do and people to obey

- Matthew 25:21

- *'His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'*

- Before God allows us to exercise authority, we have to be under authority and learn to obey

We need to do what Joseph did!



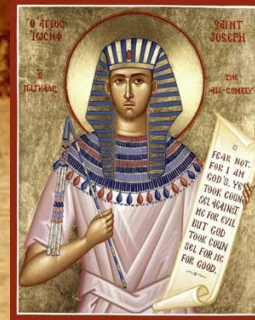
- Cast ourselves upon God
- Trust God to strengthen and help us through our sufferings and trials
 - Psalm 91:1
 - *He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty*
 - Isaiah 41:10
 - *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*

God's Method

Get busy at our tasks and work very, very hard

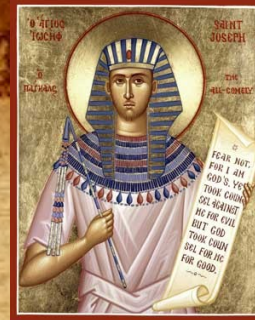
- Helps keep our minds off our problems
- Hard work always pleases the Lord and stirs Him to bless us
- Ephesians 6:5-8

– *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*

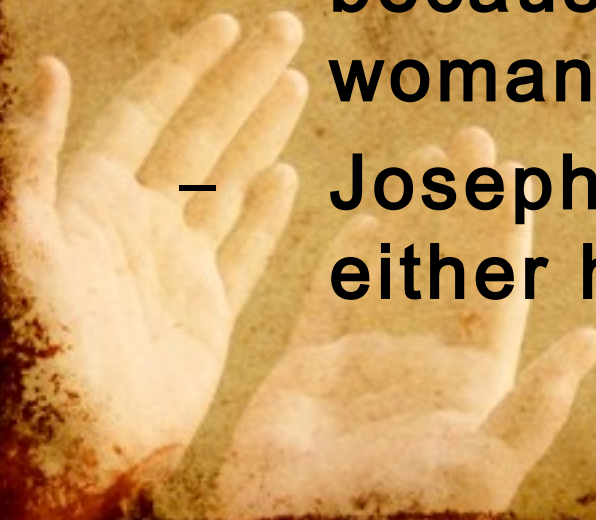


2. Through Temptation

He learned self-discipline and control (vv. 7-12)

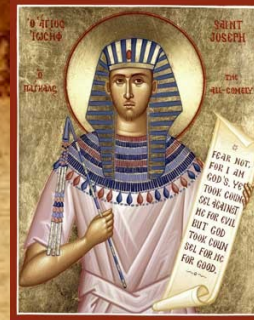


- **Overcoming Great Temptation**
 - Joseph had suffered in a pit because of hatred
 - Now even greater danger because of the lust of an evil woman
 - Joseph wasn't about to sacrifice either his purity or his integrity



2. Through Temptation

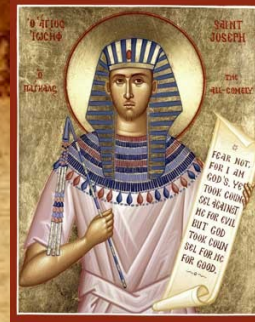
He learned self-discipline and control (vv. 7-12)



- He explained to her why he wouldn't cooperate
 - She was another man's wife, and that man was his master
 - He didn't want to violate the trust of his master
 - God would know it and be displeased

2. Through Temptation

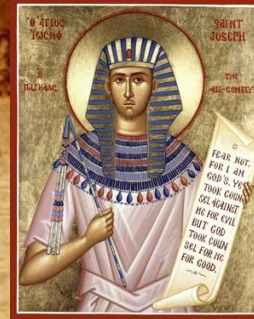
He learned self-discipline and control (vv. 7-12)



- **Fleeing**
 - Could be a mark of cowardice
 - Could be evidence of courage and integrity
 - 2 Timothy 2:22
 - “Flee from youthful lusts”

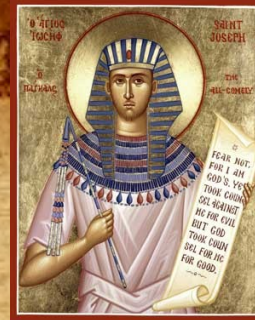
2. Through Temptation

He learned self-discipline and control (vv. 7-12)



- **Self-control**
 - Critical in building character and preparing us for God's work
 - Proverbs 25:28
 - “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls”
 - When there are no walls, anything can get in or come out

Potiphar's Response



- Involved in the Egyptian judicial system,
 - Why he didn't put Joseph on trial or execute him?
 - God was in control, working out His plan
- Potiphar knew
 - Joseph was the reason for the prosperity of his household
 - His wife
 - Had to choose between justice and a happy home
- Wonder
 - How did Joseph deal with Potiphar and his wife a few years later when he was the second ruler of the land?

“This Great Wickedness” - v. 9

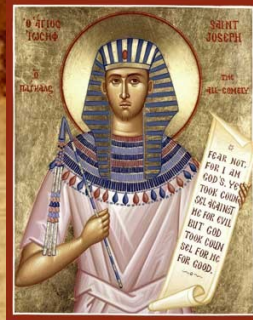
Joseph called sin just what it is - sin

• God strongly forbids sex outside of marriage

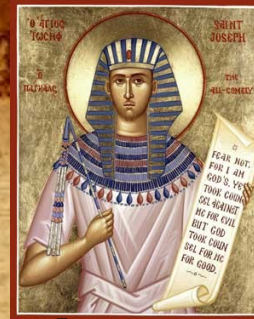
- True marriage, marriage between a man and woman

• Man has perverted the truth calling illicit sex

- an alternate lifestyle
- sexual freedom
- sexual preference
- a normal, legitimate expression of one's nature



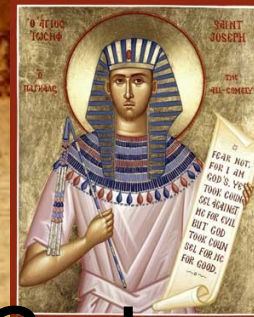
“This Great Wickedness” - v. 9



- No matter what man calls it, God strongly condemns it as sin!
 - *“This great wickedness”*
 - Destroys a person’s heart, his self-control and discipline, and eventually the person’s life
 - Destroys trust within families, parents, children, friends, and neighbors

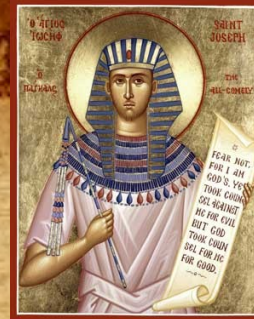


All Sin Is Against God Himself



- Joseph knew that all sin is against God Himself
 - God is always displeased with and hates sin
 - Psalms 51:4
 - *“Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge”*
 - Deuteronomy 25:16
 - *“For everyone who does these things, everyone who acts unjustly is an abomination to the LORD your God”*

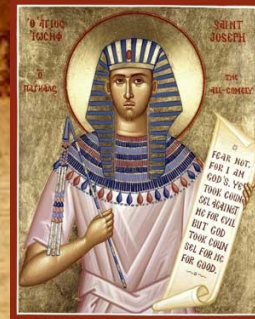
All Sin Is Against God Himself



- Sin always breaks our relationship with God
 - Psalm 66:18
 - *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me”*
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”*

3. Through Trials

He learned of humiliation and compassion (vv. 13-20)

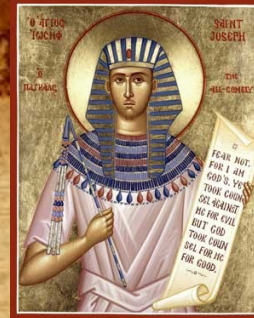


- **Enduring Injustice**

- It was the Lord who made the difference
 - “the Lord was with Joseph” and gave him success
- Some believers suffer terrible humiliation
 - Sometimes the fault is theirs
 - Sometimes the fault lies at the feet of others
- Humiliation is one of the worst sufferings ever experienced
- John 15:2
 - *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit..*

3. Through Trials

He learned of humiliation and compassion (vv. 13-20)



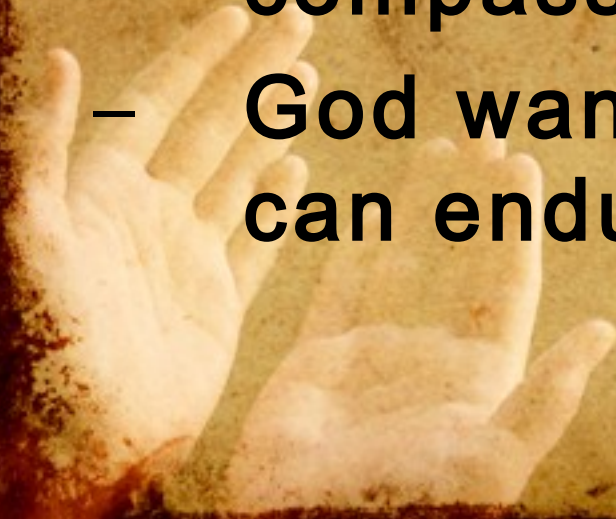
- **Some suffer the humiliation...**
 - of separation and divorce
 - of job loss and unemployment
 - of homelessness and poverty
 - of sin and shame
 - of failure and lack of success
 - of false charges and accusations
 - of imprisonment and injury

3. Through Trials

He learned of humiliation and compassion (vv. 13-20)

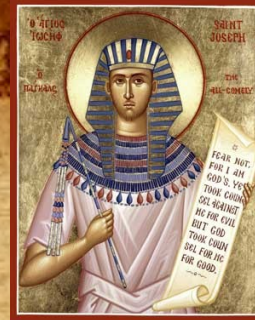


- When we suffer humiliation, God wants us to learn
 - God wants us to know what people feel so we can be compassionate toward them
 - God wants us to learn so that we can endure



4. Through God's Presence

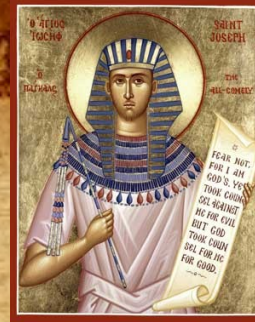
He learned to depend more and more upon God



- **Learning to Wait (vv. 21-23)**
 - It wasn't long before the prison warden put him in charge of the other prisoners
 - The work prospered
 - Prison - where Joseph learned
 - To wait on the Lord until it was God's time
 - That God's delays are not God's denials

4. Through God's Presence

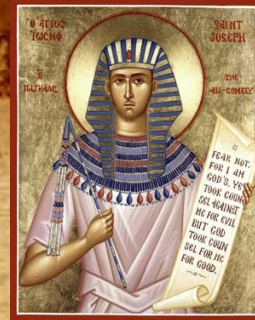
He learned to depend more and more upon God



- Joseph had time
 - To think and to pray
 - To ponder the meaning of the two dreams God had sent him
- It's through faith and patience that we inherit the promises - Hebrews 6:12; 10:36

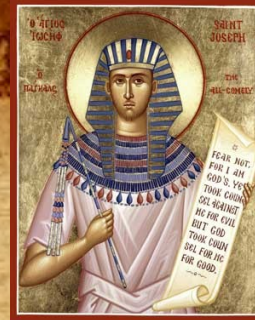


Learning to Wait on God



- Two years later God would use the cupbearer to help deliver Joseph from prison
 - During those two years of waiting, Joseph clung to the promises God had given him
 - He believed God's promise
 - He didn't know
 - How God would accomplish it
 - When it would happen
 - But he knew that God was faithful!

God Cares for Us



- **He cares enough**
 - to help us and to strengthen us
 - to bless us and make us a success
- **Believe God - Believe His Word**
 - God wants to use the trials of our lives as well as the blessings
 - To make us the people we should be
 - To make us a better workers and servants upon earth
- **God cares enough for us to help and strengthen us and to make us what we should be!**