

*The Preaching Outlines are direct outlines of the messages preached by Randy Frazee and Max Lucado for the 31 weeks of The Story. These outlines were assembled by a pastor, and are provided to give pastors a basic idea of the structure and flow of the messages as they were originally preached. The Preaching Outlines are provided in Word format so pastors can access the text and use it as a starting point for their own sermons.*

### Chapter 3 Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

**Introduction:** At 15 years of age Randy Frazee committed himself to be a pastor. After marriage, he planned for his education. While working his plan, his daughter was born. Randy had to work part-time and go to seminary part-time. He felt that his plan was ruined. Yet, the church where he was part-time staff needed a full-time pastor and the search committee asked Randy to become the pastor. Randy said, “I started where I thought I was going to end.” Randy’s experience illustrates that in the Bible there are two story lines. The upper story is God’s story where God fulfills his purpose and the lower story is the human characters’ story with all the complexities and details of life. God calls us to capture the upper story and its effects on our lives. The story of Joseph is a crystal clear example of the intertwining of the two story lines in the Bible.

- I. Joseph is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers: Genesis 37
  - A. Joseph, age 17, was “the favorite” of his father Jacob.
  - B. Joseph had dreams of his brothers and parents bowing down to him.
  - C. Joseph’s brothers sell Joseph into slavery and tell Jacob that Joseph was killed by a ferocious animal.

(transition: Joseph is sold to Ishmaelites who take Joseph to Egypt)
- II. Joseph is put into prison while in Egypt. Genesis 39-41
  - A. Joseph is sold as a slave to an Egyptian administrator named Potiphar and Potiphar’s wife tries to seduce Joseph and falsely accuses Joseph of assaulting her.
  - B. While in prison Joseph gets a reputation for correctly interpreting dreams.
  - C. “The LORD was with Joseph” is a repeated refrain in Joseph’s story.
- III. Joseph is promoted to Deputy Pharaoh in Egypt. Genesis 41

- A. Pharaoh has troubling dreams that none of his wise men and magicians can interpret for him.
  - B. Joseph is called to Pharaoh and correctly interprets Pharaoh's dreams and counsels Pharaoh to prepare for the fulfillment of his dreams.
    - 1. Dream #1- Egypt will have 7 years of bountiful harvests
    - 2. Dream #2- Egypt will have 7 years of famine.
- IV. Joseph is reunited with and forgives his brothers. Genesis 42-50
- A. Joseph's brothers come to Egypt and do *bow down* to Joseph, now age 39, and ask for food.
  - B. Joseph does not take revenge and our question is "Why?"
    - 1. Joseph is captured by the upper story where God is working his purpose within the ups and downs in Joseph's story. Genesis 45:3-8
    - 2. God was at work in the new nation and God will reveal himself through it. God made provision through Joseph to sustain the new nation during severe famine. Genesis 50:19-20
  - C. Joseph was God's agent to save the new nation by bringing the new nation to Egypt.
    - 1. The Israelites in Egypt were shepherds. The Egyptians considered shepherding an abomination. In Egypt there was no intermarriage to dilute the new nation. Intermarriage was a threat in Canaan: Genesis 38.
    - 2. Within Egypt the Israelites grew to a great nation of over a million people. Joseph had 21 years of a hard life, but 71 years of a blessed life.

Application: God is at work in the midst of the details of our lives accomplishing his good purposes (Romans 8:28). Knowing that God's story line is unfolding even in bleak and confusing times allows us to live freely, being able to forgive those who sin against us. God tests us in order to build our faith in him and strong character in us.