

Introduction: In a fallen world “the rock” of evil, injustice, and betrayal will happen to all of us sooner or later.

- *“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.”*

Peter – 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

- *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”*

Paul – 2 Timothy 3:12,13 (NIV)

- Who has wounded, betrayed, abused, abandoned, forsaken, forgotten, lied to, or hurt you more than anyone else?

Question: How do you overcome the evil aimed at you?

1. Joseph's journey _____ how to overcome the evil aimed at you.

- **God sovereignly allowed Joseph to be . . .**

1. Born in a _____ family. Genesis 37
2. _____ by his siblings. Genesis 37
3. _____ to a foreign land. Genesis 37
4. Sold into _____. Genesis 39
5. _____ of rape. Genesis 39
6. Sent to _____ unjustly. Genesis 39
7. _____ by a "friend." Genesis 40

- **Joseph's response to evil circumstances . . .**

1. He _____ – he learned and adapted.
2. He _____ – he used his gifts where he was.
3. He _____ – he refused to "bail out" on God's agenda for his life.
4. He _____ – on God's time and place.
5. He _____ – he faced his issues and forgave others for theirs.

2. Joseph's secret to overcoming evil involved something he _____, something he _____, and something he _____ to do.

- **What he knew:** Nothing comes into our lives by accident. It is either decreed or allowed by an all-wise, sovereign God for our good. Genesis 45:5-8
 - Application: I am never a _____! (see Romans 8:28-29)

- **What he did:** He blessed those who cursed him. Genesis 45:9-13
 - (see Romans 12:14, 21)
 - Application: I will do _____ to those who hurt me, in a safe and appropriate way. (see Matthew 5:43-48)

- **What he refused to do:** Take revenge. Genesis 50:15-21
 - (see Romans 12:17-21)
 - Application: I will choose to _____ (release) those who hurt me from the retribution they deserve because Christ has done that for me. (see Matthew 6:14-15)

Question: How do you overcome the evil aimed at you?

1. Choose to _____ the person(s) who have hurt you.

Forgive → Forgiving → Forgiven

Choice → Process → Resolution

2. Begin _____ daily for God to bless the person(s) who hurt you (30 days).

3. Do one act of _____ this week for the person(s) who hurt you (if possible and if appropriate).