

IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

THE LESSON: GENESIS 39

The marriage service opens with these familiar words: “Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this Congregation...” Did you catch that? *God is witness to the marriage vows!*

No matter where we go in life, God sees us. Scripture tells us plainly: “No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13). God knows whether we are honouring our promises or whether we’re trying to see what we can get away with. He knows whether we are living in obedience to him or living in defiant rebellion. And this applies to every one of us: married and single, believing and unbelieving. God sees, he knows, and he cares.

Knowing that all we do is seen by our Creator should motivate us to live righteous lives. But remember this: should you ever find yourself at rock bottom, having made all the wrong decisions, don’t despair. The same passage that reminds us that we’re exposed to God’s sight, goes on to say this: “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15-16).

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Perhaps you’re familiar with the story of Joseph in Genesis. When he was still very young, Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and taken to a foreign land. Even in those difficult circumstances, surrounded by strangers who did not believe in his God, Joseph remained faithful. Neither did God forget about him, but used him in marvellous ways. Today we’re just going to look at one very small part of Joseph’s story.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcp-online/family-prayer))

The following wonderful prayer is taken from the Family Prayers section of the Prayer Book. Try praying the words of this prayer each morning this week. Pray through it slowly, one phrase at a time, thinking about each part of it as you read. If there are specific “cares and occupations” that you want to bring before God, take the time to do that.

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE OF GOD’S PRESENCE, FROM FAMILY PRAYERS, BCP, PAGE 731)

IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

GENESIS 39: **NEVER FORGOTTEN BY GOD**

¹Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favour in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" ¹⁰And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.