

Welcome: We would like to welcome you here today for our worship service with our theme today **“My relationship with the Lord sustains me.”** Our text today is Genesis 39:1-20 as we continue our series “Joseph’s Critical Journey.” **“Note” the messages each week are also available on podcast from the church web page www.lightofchristwi.org**

Sermon Outline

1. **Our relationship with God gives us hope in the midst of the storms of life.** You see our relationship with the Lord is our lifeline, it is our spiritual umbilical cord, and it sustains us in the good times and the most trying times of our life. 1 Peter 1:3-8 says, *“³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸”* How has your relationship with the Lord sustained you in the difficult times of life?

2. **Joseph’s ongoing relationship with the Lord is the most important factor enabling him to resist temptation.** 2 Timothy 3:12: *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.* It says in *Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* What temptation are you facing that can only be overcome with the help of the Lord?

3. **Joseph’s relationship with the Lord enabled him to find meaning in life...even in a lowly prison.** Many people search for meaning in life...they try the world and all that it has to offer only to find out it is as empty as outer space and just about as filling. Only God can satisfy our inner hunger, and He will, as we turn to Him and by faith open our hearts and lives to Christ’s transforming power. God doesn’t want us to wander through life, constantly wondering who we are or why we’re here. Instead, Christ came into the world to bring us back to God, and He will, as we commit our lives to Him. How has the Lord filled your life since you became a believer in Jesus?

4. **Sermon Mediation –** What is the Lord telling you today? What is challenging about what the Lord is telling you? Why is it challenging? What would He like you to do about what He has communicated with you today?
