

**Welcome:** We would like to welcome you here today for our worship service with our theme today **“When life deals with me harshly the Lord lifts me up.** Our text is Genesis 39:20-23 and Genesis 40:1-23 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](http://www.lightofchristwi.org)**

### Sermon Outline

1. **In the midst of my sorrows and trials a believer has the favor of the Lord.”** The good news is when I begin to realize this and think about what this means because it begins to change my outlook on life because we begin to think in an eternal sense and that changes my life in the present. Psalm 46:7 says, *The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.* How have you seen God’s favor in your life?
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2. **When I am living a godly life the Lord brings people into my life to love and care for to bring about his plans.** John 15:16 says, *“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”* Who has the Lord brought into your life to minister to...care for...and serve?
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3. **A persistent faith is not destroyed by circumstances, but focuses on the cross of Jesus.** Hebrews 12:1-3 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* What is the Lord saying to you through these verses?
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4. As we close I want you to begin to think about persistent faith that led Jesus to the cross to die for our sin. The circumstances seemed daunting, the path was rugged, and what was waiting up ahead of Jesus was nothing that He had ever experienced before in all of eternity...this was new ground and it took a persistent faith because Jesus was both man and God. It says in Matthew 26:42 *He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”*

5. 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?
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