

Welcome: We would like to welcome you here today for our worship service with our sermon series called “Joseph’s Critical Journey.” Our sermon today is called “**Where is the Lord when my world is falling apart? The Story of Joseph.**” Our sermon text is Genesis 37:12-36. **Note” the messages each week are also available on podcast from the church web page www.lightofchristwi.org**

Sermon Outline

1. **Where is God? He is walking with Joseph on His journey...and he has a plan to bring about reconciliation and forgiveness with Joseph and his brothers as He works through their sinfulness and brokenness.** You and I do not know what is ahead on our journey, but we know God is walking with us. How does that comfort us knowing that?

2. **Again we need to ask the question where is God while Joseph’s brothers plot evil against him? As evil closes in around us the God of heaven holds back the full fury of the evil one.** How does this comfort us in the world we live in today that we know the Holy Spirit is at work holding back evil?

3. **When it appears everyone has abandoned us the Lord is with us and has compassion upon us.** *Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall. Psalm 55:22.* Also in James 1:2-4 ² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,* ³ *because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.* ⁴ *Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* What are these verses saying to you?

4. **In the midst of our suffering not only does God comfort us, but He uses our suffering to bankrupt us making us dependent upon Him.** 2 Cor. 12:9 ⁹ *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.* ¹⁰ *That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* How have you experienced this in your life? Why does suffering play such an important role in our spiritual journey?

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?
