

St Martins C3 – August 17, 2025

The coats of Joseph – Faith and Empowerment

Sermons Summary:

In this series we are seeking to learn how to relate to God through what we learn from observing how Joseph related to God.

Read: Genesis 41:14-43

After this Joseph literally saves Egypt and the surrounding nations from starvation in the years to come, then goes on to be a highly respected leader in Egypt many years to come.

This dramatic change in Joseph's life comes with another wardrobe change. Now he has a robe of honour, responsibility and leadership. Joseph's external robe of authority is an outward sign of inner leadership qualities that have now fully developed.

Key verse: Genesis 41:16 *"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."*

Joseph is not putting any of his confidence in his ability at this point. Joseph wants everyone to know, that he doesn't trust in his ability, to interpret dreams, but God's power to do that. Joseph's previous experiences of God have shown him that God is actively bringing about His purposes and the best thing to do is to put his trust in God and what God wants to do through him. Joseph is now fully committed to God. He fully trusts God. Which means that, God can now do great things through Joseph. God can trust Joseph to do what He has called him to do.

2 Chronicles 16:9a (NLT)

*The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to **strengthen** those whose hearts are **fully committed** to him.*

Our trust IN God leads to empowerment FROM God.

Another key verse: *"Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" (Genesis 41:38)*

Pharoah identifies something in Joseph that is different from his officials and his magicians. God's Spirit was supernaturally infusing Joseph's abilities in this moment, and Pharoah notices.

Just as Joseph was seeking God to fully empower the skills and giftings God had given him, we need to seek God's empowerment on all the skills and gifts He has given us. Just as Joseph takes the opportunity to bring all that God had given him to this situation, we need to seek God's empowerment on the skills and gifts He has given us, in every situation we find ourselves in. God wants to fully utilize the gifts and skills in your life, through empowering them with His Holy Spirit to serve His purposes.

God's power will be available to you in the moment that you need it, because your trust IN God will lead to empowerment FROM God.

What might that look like for you right now?

What might a deeper level of trust look like, that leads to an increased experience of God's empowerment on your life?

Resources for Connect Groups:

Main point: Our deep commitment, or trust, in God leads to God empowering our lives, to fulfil His purposes.

Suggested discussion questions:

Which previous experiences helped Joseph be so confident in God coming through for him, when he was in front of Pharaoh?

What are some of the attitudes or perspectives that have changed in Joseph between the ages of 17 (when he received his father's robe) to now, at age 30, (where he receives his Egyptian robe)?

Read, 2 Chronicles 16:9a again, and discuss together what you think it means, and how it might apply today?

Joseph's natural abilities seem to be supercharged by God in this moment, through the empowerment of God's Spirit. What evidence do you see of God's Spirit empowering natural abilities in your life? (Sometimes others in the group may see that on your life more than you do).

How has this week challenged you to go deeper in your faith and your expectation for God to empower you to do all He has called you to do?

Monday's Devotion – Strength and power.

1 Samuel 30:3-6

So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

This week we are going to continue with the truth we explored on Sunday. That is, when we put our trust in God, we will receive an empowerment from God to fulfil His purposes. We will look at a number of people in scripture who lived out this reality.

The first example is David. David is faced with a potentially devastating situation. He would have been tempted to respond like those around him and go into grief and vengeance mode. Instead, David seeks God. David turns to the One in whom he has put his trust. He seeks God's presence, then goes on to seek God's wisdom in the situation. As a result, God empowers David and his men to overpower their enemies and return all their family members to them.

In the difficult situations of our lives, we ought to put our trust in God. He is the one who will strengthen us. He is the one who will empower us to get through it.

Tuesday's Devotion – Courage and deliverance

Esther 4:15-16

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Although God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, His presence is implied. Esther courageously puts her confidence in God to come through for her. Not only to save her life, but the lives of everyone in her nation of birth. As it turns out, God does deliver Esther and the Jews, powerfully and miraculously.

What courageous situations do you find yourself in, where you need to trust God? Are there conversations that you need to have, which you have been avoiding? Are there opportunities you need to step into, which you are avoiding? What might trusting God's presence to be with you in those conversations or situations look like?

The other main character in the story of Esther is her cousin Mordecai. God uses Mordecai to lead Esther into a deeper trust in God, which in turn leads them both to experience God's powerful deliverance and greater influence in Persia. Who has God placed around you, to encourage you in your relationship with God? Are you using that personal relationship to grow in your relationship with God?

Wednesday's Devotion – Rule breaking faith

Acts 10:11-15

He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

Trusting God takes on many forms. I wonder how many times I have missed being obedient to God in my life, because His promptings didn't come in a way that was familiar to me, or He couldn't get through some fixed mindsets I had.

In this situation here, Peter is a devout Christian in terms of his faith, but he is also a devout Jew in terms of his culture. God was about to ask Peter to do something that went against his cultural identity. This was going to require some faith, but if Peter is obedient, he would be the first one to see God's power released on those outside of Israel.

Peter does put his trust in God and is obedient to what the Holy Spirit leads him to do. To Peter's surprise the Holy Spirit is received by the Gentiles he speaks to. This shifts his perspective and opens a world of opportunities he didn't expect.

Let us be like Peter and prayerfully consider today what "rules" or mindsets we have allowed into our lives which are hindering us seeing the new opportunities God wants to bring our way.

Thursday's Devotion – God's power, not the world's wisdom

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

The Apostle Paul may be one of the most influential thinkers of the last 2,000 years. What God has gifted him to write has shaped the thinking of churches and nations for centuries. However, Paul would be the first one to give all the credit to God, not himself.

Previously to becoming a Christian Paul was a very intelligent and passionate man. He was proud of his wisdom, which he thought was from God, but it was actually from the world and his Jewish heritage. Once Paul had encountered Christ, he discovered a true wisdom from God which superseded everything else he had previously learnt. A truth that had the power to truly change lives and the world. The truth of the gospel.

One of the lessons we can learn from Paul's life is to humbly approach whatever we are studying with an openness to the Holy Spirit to guide us into all that is true. This will, at times, mean we have to challenge the "worldly" thinking that is already in our minds.

How will we know it is God's truth? We will know because God's power accompanies God's truth. God's power to change us. God's power to free us. God's power to reveal what we could never figure out on our own.

Friday's Devotion – Spiritual confidence

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Timothy was one of the Apostle Paul's leaders. Like many of us, Timothy was a bit nervous about doing what God was calling him to do. So, Paul writes to Timothy and reminds him of where to put his confidence.

As Christians, we are not putting our confidence in our abilities, we are putting our confidence in what God will do in us, and through us. God had given Timothy the ability, through His Holy Spirit, to lead the church in Ephesus. This would include removing trouble makers from leadership positions and re-establishing a Christ-centred culture in the church. Something that would not have been easy for a young man to do, but with God's Spirit empowering him, very doable.

What skills and abilities has God given you? What responsibilities has God given you? Are all those abilities and responsibilities submitted to God? Are you seeking God's Spirit to empower you to use and fulfil all that He has called you to do?

Hopefully you have seen from the life of Joseph, and many others, that God wants to release His power to you, as you put your full confidence in Him. May you see evidence of His power around your life this week, as you put your full trust in Christ.