

# But God

Week 5 – Joseph

## But God:

Review:

God loves to show off His love.

We are in a series called “But God.” History is full of moments where it looked like all was lost and the love of God stepped in.

I believe this is still true today. I believe it is true for you and true for me.

Over the last few weeks we have covered:

1. How do we wait well? Week one.
2. The power and importance of your private life. Week two.
3. What if God doesn’t work? Week three.
4. What if you have already lost? Week four.

I would encourage you to go look them up at

<https://www.encountertrinity.com/messages/#but-god>

Opening:

Let's change the "but God" narrative today.

What if you are the cause of brokenness and pain?

Can there be a "but God" moment for the guilty?

- You gave into lust and looked things up online that you shouldn't have.
- You acquired mountains of debt through sheer materialism.
- You carry incredible anger, jealousy or bitterness.
- Right before you joined us in worship you screamed at your kids and beat your dog.

The Bible is all about this cosmic war over good and evil. The problem is we don't understand where the line is drawn. When the line between what is truly good and truly evil was drawn *all* of us were on the wrong side.

Notice the wording throughout the Bible.

- While we were still sinners Christ died for us.
- Paul calls himself the "chief of sinners."
- Jesus even says to all that watched him die, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

Jesus isn't primarily working to rescue you from evil people or nations but rescue you and them from the evil that has poisoned all of us. We all need rescued, not only from the sin in the world but the sin in each one of us.

Say this with me, "I need rescued."

To the Text:

Remember the story of Joseph in Genesis.

A favored younger brother who is given a coat of many colors. A symbol of favor that his older brothers had to look at every day.

It goes beyond this. Joseph, the favored younger brother, begins to have dreams that show God's favor on him.

Overwhelmed by jealousy, anger and a desire for revenge they end up selling him into slavery and faking his death.

Joseph's life continues with a string of very difficult situations. He faces slavery and imprisonment. You wonder what he was thinking while sitting in that jail. The retaliation of his older brothers seems to greatly outweigh any wrong he ever did.

Eventually the hand of favor rests on Joseph and he is promoted into the highest levels of leadership in Egypt.

A famine breaks out and who ends up at his doorstep starving and needing his help? His older brothers.

Genesis 50:20–21 (ESV):

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

- This isn't only the story of Joseph but the failed family of God, the chosen people who gave into the evil that was in them.
- Joseph, the Christ figure, stands before the guilty working to replace jealousy, anger and revenge with charitable love. In this story you and I are not Joseph, we are the brothers.

## What does this mean for us?

Illustration:

I think one of the greatest lies of the enemy and first miracles that God does in a believer's heart is show them their actual state.

Before I got married I decided to sit down with Leslie and share with her all the dumb and sinful things I had done. I didn't want to get 5 or 10 years into our marriage and have things surprise her. I am sure I missed a few things but I tried to make it really clear what she was saying "I do" to. I tried to aim for no surprises. When I finished the list and sat down to share it with her it was the first time I said many of those things out loud. It ended up being a confession. In that moment I realized I wasn't rescuing Leslie; no, God needed to rescue us.

When God makes you aware of your sin, He will also make you aware of His grace.

### Where is Jesus in this?

- He is hanging on the cross bearing the weight of the sin that is even in you saying, "Father, forgive them."
- He is reaching out His hand saying, "Follow me."

### Questions:

1. Have you practiced Biblical confession with a spiritual leader? What was it like?
2. To whom do you need to offer forgiveness?