



"The Lord Was with Joseph"
Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

followHIM: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Wednesday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions

Part 1:

How do you stay faithful when life is unfair, lonely, and full of temptation? Dr. Brad Wilcox shows how Joseph of Egypt overcame betrayal and adversity by understanding his birthright and covenant mission, and why modern disciples share that same calling.

Part 2:

From pit to prison to palace, Dr. Brad Wilcox explores Joseph's story reframes unfair suffering through covenant loyalty, Christlike parallels, and trust in God's larger plan.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 Part 1 - Dr. Brad Wilcox
- 01:56 Teaser
- 02:48 Joseph is type of Jesus Christ
- 04:22 Bio
- 07:47 Joseph's background
- 11:44 What is the birthright?
- 16:02 Jacob sleeps on a rock
- 19:45 A covenant relationship began
- 21:43 Mt. Moriah and a "wrestle"
- 28:50 Four mothers and 13 children
- 33:25 A preparatory law
- 35:59 A young Elder Russell M. Nelson
- 41:09 Ephraim and Manassah
- 45:18 *Born to Change the World* and a special guest
- 51:22 Women's Conference 50th Anniversary
- 53:32 Elder Bednar's question
- 55:10 Big picture help
- 59:01 President Nelson reminds about identity
- 1:00:11 Potiphar's wife
- 1:02:58 End of Part 1 - Dr. Brad Wilcox

Part 2 -

- 00:00 Part 2 - Dr. Brad Wilcox
- 02:54 *O Youth of the Noble Birthright*
- 04:19 The Lord promises to be with you
- 06:16 How Joseph points us to Jesus Christ
- 08:43 Spoiler alert: Joseph forgives his brothers
- 10:36 The Atonement of Jesus Christ changes our outcomes
- 16:29 President Monson's story of a valiant mother
- 19:48 Life doesn't make sense—yet
- 22:37 God can make every tragedy into triumph
- 25:44 Infuriating unfairness
- 27:07 "It was never easy for Him"
- 31:16 Elder Renland's "Infuriating Unfairness"
- 34:08 Brad's advice for serving the suffering and testimony
- 36:56 Jesus Christ has you
- 40:45 End of Part 2 - Dr. Brad Wilcox

References:

Degn, Patrick. "The God Who Sews: The Coat of Skins as the First Endowment." Meridian Magazine , February 11, 2026. <https://latterdaysaintmag.com/the-god-who-sews-the-coat-of-skins-as-the-first-endowment/>

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Choose You This Day." General Conference October 2018 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 7, 2018. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2018/10/choose-you-this-day?lang=eng>

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Infuriating Unfairness." General Conference April 2021 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 3, 2021. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/04/25renlund?lang=eng>

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Stronger and Closer Connection to God Through Multiple Covenants." BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, September 10, 2025. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/dale-g-renlund/stronger-and-closer-connection-to-god-through-multiple-covenants/>

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Your Divine Nature and Eternal Destiny." General Conference April 2022 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2022. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2022/04/36renlund?lang=eng>

Elder Dallin H. Oaks. "The Gospel Culture." This Article is Excerpted from an Address Delivered During a Regional Stake and District Conference Broadcast to Africa on November 21, 2010. - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, March 1, 2012. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2012/03/the-gospel-culture?lang=eng>

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Becoming a Missionary." General Conference October 2005 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 2005. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2005/10/becoming-a-missionary?lang=eng>

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Missionary Work and the Atonement." Ensign 2001 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, March 1, 2001. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2001/03/missionary-work-and-the-atonement?lang=eng>

Elder Russell M. Nelson. “Thanks for the Covenant.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, December 3, 2024. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/russell-m-nelson/thanks-covenant/>

Gaskill, Alonzo. “65 Questions and Answers About Patriarchal Blessings.” GASKILL, ALONZO L. | Deseret Book. Accessed March 1, 2026. <https://www.deseretbook.com/product/P5200985.html?srsId=AfmBOoohnCXwidEcjWybd2UU8LSjtXuLxeRzXd2tlWcp-Ft10P-MF4WW>

“Genesis 24–33.” Come, Follow Me Manual - March 2–8. “Let God Prevail,” January 1, 2026. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-home-and-church-old-testament-2026/10?lang=eng>

Griffin, Tyler, and Taylor Halvorson. “Genesis 42–50 | Taylor and Tyler | Come Follow Me Insights.” YouTube:Genesis 42–50 | Taylor and Tyler | Come Follow Me Insights. Accessed March 3, 2026. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx3aKcimZm8>.

Habermeyer, Ella. “Donny Osmond Joins Brother Wilcox at BYU Women’s Conference to Testify of Christ.” BYU Daily Universe of Brigham Young University, May 6, 2025. <https://universe.byu.edu/campus/donny-osmond-joins-brad-wilcox-at-byu-womens-conference-to-testify-of-christ>

Maxwell Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve, Neal A. “But for a Small Moment.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, July 15, 2025. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/neal-a-maxwell/small-moment/#:~:text=We%20must%20do%20as%20Jesus,preferably%20with%20applause%20and%20recognition>

Nibley, Hugh. “Temple and Cosmos (Collected Works of Hugh Nibley, Vol. 12).” NIBLEY, HUGH | Deseret Book. Accessed March 1, 2026. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/P2064726.html?srsId=AfmBOoqccsmcFpVnDOHFHSAFcp3xMeqM5o1Ak3_f50oC74rsqo2NwVI8

President Dallin H. Oaks First Counselor in the First Presidency. “Divine Love in the Father’s Plan.” General Conference April 2022 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 3, 2022. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2022/04/51oaks?lang=eng>

President Ezra Taft Benson President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “The Great Commandment-Love the Lord.” Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson 1, January 1, 2014. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-ezra-taft-benson/chapter-1-the-great-commandment-love-the-lord?lang=eng>

President Russell M. Nelson President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “Let God Prevail.” General Conference October 2020 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,

October 4, 2020. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2020/10/46nelson?lang=eng>

President Thomas S. Monson President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “Be of Good Cheer.” General Conference April 2009 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2009. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2009/04/be-of-good-cheer?lang=eng>

Richards, Mary, and Mary Richards. “President Nelson Posts About Labels and True Identity.” newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org, July 21, 2022. <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/president-nelson-posts-about-labels-and-true-identity>

Smith, Hank. “Hank Smith: Scattering of Israel.” Latterdaily, n.d. <https://latterdaily.com/creators>

Smith, Hank. “The Righteousness of Your Redeemer.” Ensign College: Speeches, November 13, 2025. <https://speeches.ensign.edu/devotional/hank-smith-11-2025>

Wilcox, Brad. “Changed Through His Grace.” WILCOX, BRAD | Deseret Book. Accessed March 1, 2026. <https://www.deseretbook.com/product/P5165405.html>

Wilcox, Brad. “His Grace Is Sufficient.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, September 2, 2025. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/brad-wilcox/his-grace-is-sufficient/>

Wilcox, Brad. “The Continuous Atonement for Teens.” WILCOX, BRAD | Deseret Book. Accessed March 1, 2026. <https://www.deseretbook.com/product/P5130457.html>

Wilcox, Bradley R. “O Youth of the Noble Birthright.” General Conference October 2024 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 6, 2024. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2024/10/46wilcox?lang=eng>

Wilcox, Bradley R. “Worthiness Is Not Flawlessness.” General Conference October 2021 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 2021. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/10/35wilcox?lang=eng>

“Women’s Conference Homepage.” Home | BYU Women’s Conference. Accessed March 1, 2026. <https://womensconference.byu.edu/>

Biographical Information:



Bradley (Brad) R. Wilcox was sustained as the First Counselor in the Young Men General Presidency on April 1, 2023.

Church Service

Bradley (Brad) R. Wilcox was sustained as the First Counselor in the Young Men General Presidency for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 1, 2023. Prior to his call, he had been serving as Second Counselor since April 2020.

Other Church callings include serving as a member of the Sunday School general board, president of the Chile Santiago East Mission (2003–2006), high councilor, stake Young Men president, counselor in a young single adult stake presidency, bishop, and full-time missionary in the Chile Vina del Mar Mission.

Professional Life

Brother Wilcox received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University and his doctorate in education from the University of Wyoming.

He is currently a professor in BYU's Department of Ancient Scripture. He is the author of the book *The Continuous Atonement* and the BYU devotional address "His Grace Is Sufficient."

Personal Life

Bradley Ray Wilcox was born on December 25, 1959, in Provo, Utah. He and his wife, Deborah, have four children.

Fair Use Notice:

The *Follow Him Podcast with Hank Smith and John Bytheway* may make use of copyrighted material, the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright holder. This constitutes a “fair use” and any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material on this podcast is offered publicly and without profit, to the public uses or the internet for comment and nonprofit educational and informational purposes. Copyright Disclaimer under Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976, allowance is made for “fair use” for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. In such cases, fair use is permitted.

No copyright(s) is/are claimed.

The content is broadcast for study, research, and educational purposes.

This falls under “Fair Use” guidelines: www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html.

Note:

The *Follow Him Podcast with Hank Smith and John Bytheway* is not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints nor Brigham Young University. The opinions expressed on episodes represent the views of the guest and podcasters alone. While the ideas presented may vary from traditional understandings or teachings, they in no way reflect criticism of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day leaders, policies, or practices.



Hank Smith:	00:00:00	Coming up in this episode on followHIM.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:00:08	We are talking about something that's very personal. We're talking about something that is very applicable in our lives because we have entered the same covenants and we have access to the same blessings, including a birthright.
Hank Smith:	00:00:32	Hello, my friends. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith. I'm your host. And can we find such a co-host as this, a man in whom the spirit of God is? There is none so discreet and wise as John Bytheway. John, did you love that introduction?
John Bytheway:	00:00:55	Yes. I thought you were gonna say I had a coat of many colors, but that would be my wife. She has coats of many different colors.
Hank Smith:	00:01:02	Yes. I know that of Kim. John, that is Genesis 41. Pharaoh is talking about Joseph of Egypt. John, I don't know how you felt about recording today, but I know my heart, like, leaped and then my whole soul became just comforted because I love this man so much, and we've been friends for so long, and you've been friends with him even longer. Dr. Brad Wilcox is back on followHIM.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:01:32	Who is not discreet at all.
Hank Smith:	00:01:35	Can we find such a one as this? You both fit this category. Brad, welcome back.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:01:42	Hey, it's so great to be with you. I just have been watching all the good you've been doing, and it's remarkable to see this podcast blossoming, reaching more and more and more people. I love it.

Hank Smith:	00:01:56	Some people see us as a bit of a trio, and I love to be included in that. However, John, you've known Brad since the 1900s. I haven't. Tell me about Brad in the 1900s.
John Bytheway:	00:02:05	That's right. My first year as an EFY counselor, anciently, we called it EFY, was in 1984. Brad came to speak in-
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:02:18	1985.
John Bytheway:	00:02:19	1985, the very next year. And I remember watching him going, "Wow, who is this guy?" I found out-
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:02:27	He's not very discreet.
John Bytheway:	00:02:31	He was walking down discreet, but he wasn't discreet. Dad jokes, they're starting already.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:02:39	I think everybody who was listening is now tuned out.
Hank Smith:	00:02:42	Yes. This is gonna be the whole time, I promise. Before we get too far into this, John, tell me what you think of Joseph of Egypt. You know how I feel. I think it may be the greatest story ever told.
John Bytheway:	00:02:57	I love it, and the more you study it, the more you see types and shadows of Christ, and you see how Joseph's going to save the whole rest of the house of Israel, and you go, "Oh, and in the latter days, what's our job? Go gather Israel." Learning more about ourselves when we learn about Joseph and what he was supposed to do. The things he went through are kind of tough.
Hank Smith:	00:03:20	Oh man. I call him an unconquerable spirit. Speaking of unconquerable spirits, Brad, what are you thinking about today? What do you wanna do?
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:03:29	I want to focus on Joseph, but I think we can't do that without backing up a little bit. I wanna go back a few chapters, and let's talk about the context in which Joseph lived. Let's talk about his family. Let's talk about the covenant. Then, I think we're gonna be able to understand why he is able to deal with adversity, why he is able to be guided and inspired by God, why he's able to flee temptation, and how he can help Egypt prepare for hardship. We can see why he can stand as a type of Christ, because we have a little background. So, are you game? Can we go backwards first before we go forward?

Hank Smith:	00:04:18	Brad, I love it. In fact, it's one of the reasons I said we need to have Brad on the show for this part of the lesson. I was hoping that you would do this. Now, Brad, I know you're ready to go, but John, there may be ... I don't know who. There may be someone who's a brand new member of the church, who's just started listening to our show, and they don't know who Brad is. So, do you have a bit of a bio?
John Bytheway:	00:04:41	I do, yes. Brad is a professor in the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU. He received his bachelor's degree in elementary education and actually taught sixth grade in the Provo School District. Wouldn't it be fun to have Brad as your sixth grade teacher?
Hank Smith:	00:04:56	Oh, man.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:04:58	I sure had a lot of fun.
John Bytheway:	00:04:59	Oh, I imagine. He returned got a master's degree in teaching and learning and a PhD at the University of Wyoming. He joined the faculty at BYU, spent many years in teacher education, and then moved to ancient scripture in 2016. Hank, a lot of people might know Brad from the great talk he gave at BYU. Everybody can find it on speeches called His Grace is Sufficient . He also wrote The Continuous Atonement and the Continuous Conversion, and just a great follow-up to that book. Brad grew up in Provo, but he spent his childhood years in Ethiopia, served a mission in Chile and later served as a mission president in Chile Santiago East Mission. He and his family also lived in New Zealand and Spain where he directed study abroad programs for BYU. He served as a member of the Sunday School General Board, and most recently as the first counselor in the Young Men General Presidency. He and his wife, Deb, you have four children and 10 grandchildren, right, Brad?
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:06:04	Yeah. Lots of fun.
John Bytheway:	00:06:06	Brad, you've been released from the young men general presidency. What have they got you doing now?
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:06:11	I always tell people that callings come and go, but covenants never change. If you're living your covenants, you're always gonna be busy doing something. I am still having the opportunity to be out with the youth, which I love. I'm still having the opportunity to teach young adults, which I love. I'm still having the opportunity to help build the kingdom, and that's what I love.

Hank Smith:	00:06:36	I remember once I accidentally posed a question to my friend, who's a stake president, I said, "Hey, what are you now that you're not stake president?" And he said, "Happy." I was like, "Hey, that's not what I meant. That's not what I meant." Let's jump into the Come, Follow Me manual, because I wanna give Brad all the time to walk us through the House of Israel and through this story. The title of the lesson this week is The Lord was with Joseph. We know that God blesses people who trust him and keep his commandments, but sometimes it doesn't seem that way. Sometimes the person who trusts God is abused and abandoned by family members. Sometimes the person who bravely refuses to violate the law of chastity gets falsely accused anyway. When things like this happen to us, we might be tempted to become angry with God.
	00:07:26	We might wonder, "What's the point of trying to do the right thing if it only seems to make life harder?" Joseph, the son of Jacob, could have wondered that. At times, this faithful man prospered. At other times, it seemed that the more faithful he was, the more hardship he faced. But Joseph never left the Lord, and the Lord never left Joseph. That doesn't mean the Lord prevented bad things from happening to Joseph, but through it all, the Lord was with him. Hmm, beautiful. All right, Brad, how far back do we need to go in order to really grasp this story?
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:08:02	I wanna go clear back to chapter 25 of Genesis. We've just completed the part where Abraham is commanded to sacrifice Isaac. Isaac is willing to be sacrificed. Some people say, "What's the difference between consecration and sacrifice?" When we sacrifice, we're putting ourselves in the place of Abraham. When we live the law of consecration, we're putting ourselves in the place of Isaac. We're giving our all. That's now what's happened, and then Isaac is led to his wife. In 25, we find out at the very end of 24, it says, "And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her." Then in the introduction to 25, it says, "Rebekah conceives and Jacob and Esau, twins, struggle in her womb. The Lord reveals their destiny to Rebekah." Over to 23, verse 23, it says, "And the Lord said unto her, two nations are in thy womb." Skip down to the bottom of the verse, and it says, "And the elder shall serve the younger." So the Lord is revealing to her that the youngest born is the one that's actually going to be the one who has the birthright.
	00:09:33	25, the first they called Esau and after that came his brother and his name was called Jacob. Now, go over to the end of 25, and in verse 29, we read, "And Jacob made pottage." Pottage is

anything that you can make in a pot. Think chili, think stew, think chicken noodle soup, anything that can be made in a pot. And Esau came in from the field and was faint, and Esau said to Jacob, "Feed me, I pray." And Jacob said, "Sell me this day thy birthright." Now, I have been in Israel and I have been with tour guides who are from the Muslim faith. I have been with tour guides who are from the Jewish faith, and I have been with tour guides who are from a Christian faith. All three times that I've been with those tour guides, they all say Jacob tricked Esau, that Jacob tricked him.

00:10:35 He got him when he was hungry, and then he threw this out there that Jacob was really the one who swindled his brother out of the birthright. But if we read right here in the scriptures, we see that that's not the case. It's Esau who says, look at verse 32, "What profit shall this birthright do to me?" And then in verse 33, he sold his birthright to Jacob. And then in 34, Jacob gives him bread and pottage. Then the very end of that verse, Esau despised his birthright. It's not that Jacob's tricking him, it's that Jacob values the birthright. He values the blessing, and Esau doesn't. We could go so far as to say Jacob values a covenant relationship with God. Esau doesn't. So we don't have to feel bad for Esau. We have to remember that he chose not to value something that Jacob chose to value.

Hank Smith: 00:11:43 Brad, I was looking at this same verse in the contemporary English version of the Bible. Jacob then gave Esau some bread and some of the bean stew. When Esau had finished eating and drinking, he just got up and left, showing how little he thought of his rights as the firstborn.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:12:03 Exactly what we're talking about. Now, if we look up birthright in the Bible Dictionary, it will say go to firstborn. If we read under firstborn, then it tells us that the birthright doesn't mean that Esau doesn't get anything. The birthright simply means that Jacob now gets a double portion, an extra portion. So if we go back to the Old Testament, we have a dad and we have a mom. They have number one son, they have number two son, they have two daughters, and they have the baby son. If that's our family in the Old Testament and dad dies, I mean, he's wealthy, he's loaded, and he dies, who gets the money. Now, if we think of it in today's world, people would say, "Well, the mom does." If we go back to the Old Testament world, who gets the money? Then everybody's gonna say, "The number one son." But that's not the case.

00:12:58 If dad has three sons, then his estate is divided into four equal parts. Baby gets his share and he's out of here. He's gonna go

make his way in the world. Then the number two son gets his share, and he is gonna go make his way in the world. But the number one son, the son with the birthright, gets two shares. But notice, he's not going anywhere, because with the extra portion comes added responsibility. He has to care for his mother. He has to care for his sisters, provide them dowries so that they can be properly married. And even after he marries and has a family himself, he will stay to the end of his days to govern the affairs of his father's kingdom. Now, let's think about that in Joseph's life. Joseph ends up with the birthright. Does he care for his brothers and sisters?

00:13:51 Oh yeah, he saves their lives. Does he govern the affairs of his father's kingdom? Yes, and all of Egypt at the same time. He fulfills his birthright. Well, what does that mean for us? Today, we're not talking about Old Testament gender roles, and we're not talking about birth order in earthly families. We're talking about God's family, and we're talking about the blessings that are ours as we choose to enter the covenant. As we enter the same covenant that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob entered, then we become heirs to the same blessings. And one of those blessings is the birthright. So we have a birthright? We certainly do. We have an extra portion temporally and spiritually. My goodness, there's not anybody who's listening to this podcast who can't say, "I have received temporal blessings, and I have received spiritual blessings." Now, with those blessings, it's not too much for God to ask us to do something extra, do something more, because he's already given us so much more.

00:15:05 So he asks us to care for our brothers and sisters. Why do I have to pay humanitarian aid? Why do I have to pay fast offerings? Why on earth do I have to go on a mission to care for my brothers and sisters? Why do I have to have a calling? Why do I have to stand up in front of people and go like this and nobody even looks at you? To govern the affairs of my father's estate. God can ask more of us because he's given more to us. As I said in General Conference when I spoke on this topic, does that mean that we are better than others? No. It simply means that God expects us to help others be better because we have already entered a covenant relationship with him. Now, let's go to chapter 28 and let's see this covenant relationship in Jacob's life.

00:16:02 It says in the introduction, he blesses Jacob and his seed with the blessings of Abraham. The same covenant that Abraham had entered, that Isaac had entered. Now, Jacob is going to enter this same covenant relationship. Jacob sees a vision of a ladder reaching up into heaven. Let's go to 10 and we'll start

there. Hank, do you have that in front of you? Do you mind reading for us?

- Hank Smith: 00:16:27 And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place and tarried there all night because the sun was set. And he took up the stones of that place and put them for his pillows.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:16:41 Not a very comfortable pillow. But do you realize that the stone that English monarchs have sat on for years when they are crowned is called the stone of scone or the stone of destiny. It's kept in Edinburgh. They bring it to Westminster Abbey when there is a coronation. So if you've watched a coronation, you have seen a queen or a king be crowned while sitting on a wooden chair that has the stone beneath them. The legend is that this was the very stone that Jacob slept on. They're claiming authority from a stone, much like many people in the world claim authority from the Bible, but the Bible can't give authority. A stone can't give authority. But isn't it interesting that they're claiming authority based on a stone that a prophet slept on? How blessed we are because of the restoration, because we understand that we actually have the same authority, the same covenants that were had by Jacob, that we're not dependent on a stone to be able to have a claim to that authority.
- 00:18:03 Look at the covenants now that Jacob is entering. 12, and he dreamed, and behold, a ladder set up on the earth and the top of it reached to heaven, and behold, the angels of God ascended and descending, ascending and descending on it. Now, in our language today, we probably wouldn't see a ladder going up to heaven, but we could see a covenant path. He is entering the covenant path. And as he does, look at 13, "And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, the God of Isaac." And then he promises the same blessings of the covenant to Jacob. Look at land, promised land. What we could see eternally as the celestial kingdom. Look at 14, he promises seed or posterity, which we could see eternally as an eternal family. Then he says, all the families of the earth will be blessed, and how will they be blessed through the priesthood keys that are given? Priesthood, posterity, promised land.
- 00:19:24 These are the blessings that were given to Abraham, blessings given to Isaac as they entered a covenant relationship, and now these are the blessings that are being given to Jacob, and they are the blessings that we all can have as we enter the same

covenant relationship that they are entering. Look at 15, "I am with thee." What was the title of this lesson, Hank?

- Hank Smith: 00:19:53 The Lord was with him.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:19:55 Yes. He's telling Jacob, "I am with thee. I will not leave thee." This is a relationship. A covenant isn't a contract where we have a landlord and a renter, and if the renter doesn't pay rent, the landlord kicks him out. It's not a contract. It's a relationship. I am with thee. I will not leave thee because we are now in a covenant relationship with each other. And it says 16 and Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place." If the Lord is in this place, could we call it a temple?
- 00:20:37 Well, that's what they do. Look at 17. This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Then look at 19, and he called the name of that place Bethel. Beth, of course, means house of. Bethlehem means house of bread. So Bethel means house of Elohim. This is a temple where they're making covenants. If God will be with me, Jacob vows a vow. If God will be with me and will keep me in the way that I go, then I will have his arraignment to put on. Do we receive special clothing as we make an oath and covenant with God? Do we receive a garment? Do we receive the robes of the priesthood? Yes, we certainly, certainly do.
- Hank Smith: 00:21:43 Brad, according to Jewish rabbis, this spot is Mount Moriah. It's the very place where his father was about to be sacrificed by his grandfather and the same place where the temple was eventually built.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:21:57 This is a sacred place. We'll cover one more thing before we start going into the house of Israel. Genesis 32:24. It says, And Jacob was left alone and there wrestled a man with him or an angel with him until the breaking of the day.
- John Bytheway: 00:22:18 Brad, I love this footnote here, footnote 24A, takes you to Enos. I love how Enos starts. Enos has one book in the Book of Mormon, and he says, "Let me tell you of the wrestle that I had before I obtained a remission of my sins." He didn't wrestle with anybody. He wrestled with himself. Of all the things he wants to tell us about, here's how I obtained a remission of my sins, and he described it as a wrestle.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:22:44 See, he's not saying here he's wrestling with an angel. He's wrestling with himself before God, before an angel like Enos. Look at the bottom of 36. "I will not let thee go except thou

bless me. " Wait, he already has received blessings. He received a promised land, he received posterity, he received the priesthood keys. What other blessings are there? You mean we only make a covenant once? No, we make a covenant more than once. If a covenant is a contract, maybe you'd only need to sign it once. But if a covenant is a relationship, then you're going to renew that relationship. Now, Jacob is going into a deeper relationship. When we are ready to go into a deeper relationship with God, we enter the temple to make more covenants and we receive a new name. Now watch what happens to Jacob. And he said unto him, "What is thy name?" And he said, Jacob 28, and he said, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel." Israel is his name now that he is making additional covenants. What did President Nelson teach us that Israel means?

- | | | |
|------------------|----------|--|
| John Bytheway: | 00:24:07 | The Bible Dictionary has one who prevails with God and let God prevail. |
| Dr. Brad Wilcox: | 00:24:14 | <p>Yep. And right here in verse 28, it says, "Power with God and with men and hast prevailed." We see there's meaning in this name. So the house of Israel is simply the family or posterity of Jacob. Are there people on the earth at this point who have descended from Noah, but not from Jacob? Yes, of course. Many. Are there people who have descended from Abraham who have not descended from Jacob? Many. We now realize that the house of Israel does not include all of mankind. These are the ones that will be tasked with the job of taking the blessings to all mankind. These are the ones who will be tasked with the responsibility of bringing all of God's children home to him. When I spoke in General Conference on this theme, I said, "So does that mean that we're chosen? Yes. But not chosen to rule and reign, chosen to serve." I said, Does that mean that we are loved? Yes.</p> |
| | 00:25:36 | <p>But more important, it means that we are trusted. God trusts the house of Israel to be the workers who will then extend God's blessings to all of his children. Look at 30. Has he entered into greater covenants? Yes. Jacob said, "For I have seen God face to face." Let's talk house of Israel. Now we're at a point where we can start with Jacob. I am an elementary school teacher and I'm gonna hold up some signs here so that people can stick with me. Jacob, righteous man, we're in Genesis 29. He wanted the covenant. He wanted the birthright. He lived the covenant. He lived the birthright. And he wanted to marry a girl named Rachel. Now, Rachel was someone he worked for seven years to be able to marry her. And by the time it was time for her to be married, then her older sister, Leah, was not married.</p> |

00:26:46 It was inappropriate for an older sister to marry after a younger sister. So Jacob marries Rachel and Leah. What? My students in my classes say, "Brother Wilcox, that sounds like polygamy. And I say, No, it doesn't sound like polygamy. It is polygamy. And it's right in the Bible. Some of them say, Brother Wilcox, I'm struggling with my testimony because I found out Joseph Smith was a polygamist. And I say, How come you're not struggling with your testimony because Jacob was a polygamist? It's right in the Bible. Oh, so am I saying that everybody's gonna have to live this way? No. God has never asked this of all of his children, but he has asked it of some when he is trying to have a posterity that can bless all of his children. Why did we have to live polygamy at the beginning of the church?

00:27:47 I don't know all the reasons, but I know a good one, to get me here. How many listening to this podcast are on this earth because somebody lived polygamy? Those of you who don't have your hands up, maybe you're not going back far enough. We all are here because someone was willing to live this law when it was asked of them.

Hank Smith: 00:28:13 Occasionally, when we're doing this similar thing in my class, I'll say, "Abraham and S-" and they'll say, Sarah, and I'll say, Isaac, and they'll say, Rebekah, and I'll say, Jacob, and they'll say Rachel, and then I'll just sit there. And, what? I'm like, Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah? And it's almost like we don't wanna talk about these people who are our family. This is our family. This is our story. We don't just throw these three women. Well, they're not really in our history. Well, then you're losing how many of the tribes, Brad? I think 10?

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:28:46 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:28:47 10 of the 12 tribes of Jacob, of Israel.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:28:50 Yeah. That's a wonderful point. Leah then starts having children. She has Reuben, number one son, she has Simeon, number two son, she has Levi, number three son, and she has Judah, number four son. Now about now, Rachel's like freaking out. She's like, Whoa, Leah is filling the whole primary. Like the whole primary belongs to my sister. I wanna have children too. She says, Will you, Jacob, marry my handmaiden Bilhah and will you have children to me? This is in Genesis 30 through her. So, Jacob marries Bilhah. She becomes his third wife, his first concubine. Whoa, concubines. I thought those were wicked and evil. Well, they are in the Book of Mormon when King Noah takes them without authority, but a concubine is secondary wife. In this

case, a wife who's given rather than taken. In this case, a wife who is from a lower social status.

00:29:59 This is her handmaiden. Now, do we have a precedent for a wife giving a handmaiden to have children? Yes, right with Abraham and Hagar. We have precedent with Abraham and Sarah. Then Abraham marries, according to the Doctrine and Covenants, marries Hagar. And she has a child to Sarah. We've got the precedent there. Bilhah has two sons. She has Dan, number five, and Naphtali. Number six. Well, then about then, Leah says, this is a great idea. Get another woman to have your children. Oh, I love that idea. She says, will you please take my handmaiden Zilpah? And will you have children to me through her? So Jacob marries Zilpah. She becomes his fourth wife, his second concubine. And she has son number seven, Gad, and son number eight, Asher. Now you think it's gotta be Rachel's turn. It's just gotta be Rachel's turn. Well, it's not.

00:31:17 Leah kicks in again. And she has son number nine, Isaachar. Now, who is his grandpa?

John Bytheway: 00:31:26 Isaac.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:31:27 Isaac. He's named after his grandfather. How many listeners have been named after grandparents? Well, that's what's happening here. See, this whole family, this has the texture of reality, not the texture of fiction and fantasy. All right, here we go. Then she has son number 10, Zebulon, and then she has the only daughter who's mentioned. And that is Dinah. Finally, now, it is Rachel's turn. And Rachel now has her two sons. Joseph, number 11, and Benjamin. This is in Genesis 35. There you have the 12 sons, the 12 tribes of Israel, but we're not done. That's where we end when we're teaching Primary. That's where we end when we are writing Broadway musicals. But it gets a little more complex than this. Remember, it has the texture of reality. It's complex. The first thing we need to realize is that we don't worry too much about the number 12. How many men are in the quorum of the 12?

John Bytheway: 00:32:44 More than 12.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:32:46 More than 12. When one passes away, do we call it the quorum of the 11? No. Don't worry too much about the number. You're gonna find out there's 14 tribes that patriarchs can use when they're giving patriarchal blessings. And as you read the Old Testament, you'll find out there's half tribes beyond that. Let's go now to the complexity. The first thing we need to understand is that Levi is not a traditional tribe. He has a posterity, but he

doesn't have a land of inheritance because Levi is the priesthood. Have you ever heard of the Levitical priesthood? When Moses was taking the Israelites out of Egypt, he found out it was a lot harder to get Egypt out of the Israelites.

00:33:35 A lot harder. They needed a preparatory law, a preparatory priesthood, and the Levites were the ones chosen to administer that priesthood and to take care of the priesthood responsibilities like the sacrifices. We have Levi that's not a traditional tribe. No land of inheritance. Then, where does the other tribe come from? Who has the birthright? Now, you're gonna understand why I've backed way up. Who has the birthright? We would say, Well, the oldest son was Reuben. Reuben has the birthright. What is the birthright according to the Bible Dictionary? A double portion, an extra portion. We could say that instead of one tribe, Reuben would have two tribes, but Reuben also has something else. Reuben has a morality problem with one of his father's wives. Ooh. Bilhah. I know. It's worse than TV. It's worse than some soap opera. But they repent. Bilhah repents. Reuben repents. Reuben retains his tribe, but he loses the birthright.

00:34:56 You mean a birthright can be lost? Yes. This extra blessing, these extra responsibilities can be passed to another when we don't choose to live the covenant that we have entered. Reuben loses the birthright, and it's passed not to Simeon, which would be the case if Jacob only had one wife. But because he has multiple wives, then the birthright is passed to the firstborn of the second full wife, and that is Joseph. Go, go, go, Joseph, da, da, da, da, da. Come on now, Joseph. Na, na, na, na, na. That's Joseph. He has the birthright. He has the extra portion. Now, remember the story of Joseph and the coat of many colors. Remember the story. Why do the storybooks say he got the coat? 'Cause he was daddy's little favorite. But remember that President Nelson, when he was a young apostle in 1988, John, this was back when we were just starting to work with EFY.

00:36:14 In 1988, that young apostle blew my mind. He came to a devotional, and it was called [Thanks for the Covenant](#). You can find it at speeches.byu.edu. And he said, Joseph didn't get the coat because he was daddy's little favorite. He got the coat because it was a symbol of his extra portion, a symbol of his birthright. Now, you wanna get even more interesting. [Hugh Nibley](#) used to tell his classes that the coat could not have just been a coat that we think of as something over clothing. The [coat](#) could have been coat as in coats of skins, as in something we wear under clothing, as in a garment. Yeah, but a colored garment? Well, when you wash yours with your reds, then you

also have a coat of many colors. But you only do that once, and then you learn your lesson. What did Hugh Nibley say was meant by many colors?

00:37:30 He said it this way. A coat of many markings. Do we wear a coat of many markings that remind us of our covenant, that remind us of our birthright? Oh, yes. We do. We do. Joseph has the birthright. And if a birthright is an extra portion, then instead of one tribe, how many tribes does Joseph have? Two. And he has two sons. He marries Asenath, and then he has Manasseh, who is born first. We're in Genesis 48. He has Ephraim who is born second, Genesis 48. Then grandpa, Jacob, adopts these boys. They're no longer grandsons. They're gonna be on equal footing with the other tribal leaders. He adopts them, and he adopts them in a different order. He adopts Ephraim first, and then he adopts Manasseh. Ephraim and Manasseh. There you have the 12 tribes of Israel. Joseph is not a traditional tribe. He's represented by Ephraim and Manasseh.

00:38:59 Levi is not a traditional tribe. The two tribes that take the place of Joseph and Levi are Ephraim and Manasseh. If we go to 1 Chronicles 5:1, we read that the birthright was given to the sons, plural, of Joseph. The sons of Joseph. Ephraim and Manasseh are both holders of the birthright blessings and the birthright responsibilities. Now, let's do what you can't do in any other church. Let's do what you can't do in any other religion. How many who are listening are from Ephraim?

00:39:51 How many are from Manasseh? Hmm. Interesting. Ephraim and Manasseh gathered first in the final last days because they have the birthright. They are now responsible for gathering all the other tribes of Israel. Now, if you go to 49 of Genesis and you look at the introduction to the chapter, you see the words temporal and spiritual. If we link those up to the order in which the sons were adopted, then we see that Ephraim becomes the temporal kingdom builders, and Manasseh becomes the spiritual kingdom builders. Ephraim and Manasseh, working together to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus Christ, gathering the other tribes of Israel so that when Christ comes, there's an additional layer of organization. Well, so what if you're from Zebulun? So what if you're from Naphtali? So what if you're from Judah? So what if you're from Benjamin? What does that mean?

00:41:09 Well, right now, all the tribes will work together to help Ephraim and Manasseh prepare for the Second Coming. Isaiah says that when Jesus comes, the government shall be upon his shoulders. Well, if it's on his shoulders, then it's also on our shoulders. We

will have the organization of the church and the world will be governed spiritually by Jesus Christ. [President Oaks](#) says, that's where the tribes may come in. He calls the tribes the government of God. Jesus, when he comes, he's not gonna have a president. There's not gonna be a Congress or a Senate. There's not gonna be prime minister or a parliament or kings or queens or princes or princesses. He will run the world. Will we live in our tribes? No. Family is the organization of heaven. We will live in families, but can families have different responsibilities? They do now. Your dad's in the bishopric, your mom's in the Primary President, your sister's in the presidency of the oldest young women class, and your brother is the first counselor in the teacher's quorum presidency.

00:42:29 We have different responsibilities, but we still live as families. How can family members be from different tribes? President Oaks has taught that when the patriarch puts his hands on your head, he's not giving you a DNA test. At this point, after all the generations and all the intermarrying between tribes and outside of Israel, we're all mudbloods in Harry Potter language. We're not pure blood anything. So when the patriarch is putting his hands on your head, he is by inspiration from the Holy Ghost, he is declaring what President Nelson said is your linkage to the past and your linkage to the future. Not just your linkage to the past, the tribe through which you will receive your blessings, but the tribe through which you will bless others. Now, we have hints. Moses' blessings of the tribes. We have hints. Jacob blesses the tribes. And those give hints as to what the tribes may one day be responsible for, but we don't know until Jesus Christ comes again.

00:43:49 We have to have an organization in place. Now, do you understand why when I had the opportunity to speak to the youth of the church, I said, Don't sell your birthright for a mess of pottage. Think of Reuben. Don't trade everything for nothing. Don't let the world change you when you were born to change the world. We needed that background. John and Hank, I'm sorry I've taken us on a little diversion from Joseph, but we needed that background to understand why Joseph makes the choices he makes and why he does what he does. This gives us that background. Suddenly, we realize we're not just learning a story that they can teach in vacation Bible school. We're not just learning a Broadway musical. We are talking about something that's very personal. We're talking about something that is very applicable in our lives because we have entered the same covenants and we have access to the same blessings, including a birthright.

John Bytheway:	00:45:20	Brad, this reminds me of some of the material you covered. You wrote a little book called Born to Change the World.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:45:27	Yes.
John Bytheway:	00:45:28	Also, Brad, you wrote one called Your Patriarchal Blessing . I don't know about both of you, but how often do you get questions from somebody that it is from Dan or from Asher? What am I supposed to do? 'Cause they're looking way back to this little brief, tiny fractional account of a blessing that Jacob gave or Moses mentioned or something. Not looking at their own patriarchal blessings. So I'm glad you covered that. I loved that President Nelson told the missionaries, Go find those who are willing to let God prevail. I thought that was such a great description. Who is the house of Israel? They are those who are willing to let God prevail.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:46:09	We're not just looking for a bloodline. We are looking for anybody who's willing to come in. Remember, Esau had a bloodline, but he didn't want it. We're looking for anybody who's willing to enter this covenant relationship with God, to let God prevail and be willing to be part of the workers who are going to be able to take the blessings of Abraham to all of God's children on both sides of the veil.
Hank Smith:	00:46:44	Brad, what you just did, you've done a few times in different firesides.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:46:49	I've been teaching it ever since President Nelson spoke to us in that 1988. I have been on fire about teaching the House of Israel.
Hank Smith:	00:46:58	Quite a few times. I give a similar fireside and people will come up after and say, "You really should get to know Brad Wilcox," because he gives a very similar- And I was like, "Oh, okay. Well, thank you. I will see if I can go down the hall at BYU and get to know him." Brad, if I remember right, it was a big audience last year at BYU's Women's Conference. You were able to do this talk and it was quite a scene because you had a special guest. Tell us all about it.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:47:30	Well, it was so funny because I had been invited to speak on this and they wanted me to talk about the House of Israel and the Covenant. I thought, "Oh, it'd be so cool if I could get that coat there, that coat of many colors." So I called Donny, who's a friend from high school days. I said, "Donny, could I borrow the coat to show at women's conference?" He said, "Absolutely not.

" He says, "I would never let that coat out of my sight." He says, "But I'll come." I said-

Hank Smith: 00:47:59 I'll wear it.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:48:00 "Wait, you have, like, a Las Vegas show you're doing. How could you break away?" And he says, "Actually, that night, I'm on a break. I am not doing a show that night." He says, "I'll just come with you. " So I called the people who were running women's conference and said, "Would it be all right if [Donny Osmond](#) came wearing the coat of many colors and they said, "Only if he sings."

John Bytheway: 00:48:26 How wonderful.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:48:27 And so he did. But it was so fun. I actually got Donny's family, his grandkids, to come up and hold these little cards that I was holding up. They came out dressed in Old Testament clothing and they stood there and they were the little family. And then I said, "Oh, you know what would really be cool is if we actually had the guy that played Joseph on the Broadway show and in the movie, and it would be so cool if we had the guy who actually wore the coat." I said, "Wouldn't it be cool if we had Donny Osmond here and then Donny came out and everybody was screaming and clapping and Donny came out showing the coat and, and it was really something. He helped me teach and he testified. He talked about, John, his own patriarchal blessing. He did a beautiful job of talking about how the coat is a symbol of covenant and how the coat is a symbol of birthright. I mean, it was beautiful. And then he sang, he sang, he sang Amazing Grace, and he sang, do my coat, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da. Everybody was just loving it, loving it, loving it. That was a lot of fun. Donny Osmond, the person that people picture when they're thinking of Joseph, he was right there, he was right there, and it was just wonderful.

Hank Smith: 00:49:56 How beautiful is that?

John Bytheway: 00:49:58 I tried out for that part. Soon as I said, "I look handsome, I look smart." I mean, right there, they cut off the audition. You're just not right for this part at all.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:50:10 You're not a walking work of art.

John Bytheway: 00:50:12 Exactly. I wanted to give a shout out to Donny because it was 30 years ago. I lived in the river bottoms in Provo in a little condo and I had the nerve to go knock on his door and he sang happy

birthday to my sister Sally at the piano. When I showed that to my sister, she about lost it. So as good and as nice as a person as you hope he is, he is.

Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:50:40	He and his wife, Debbie, are a powerful team. They have a wonderful family, and it was so fun to have them up there on the stage, and nobody quite knew exactly who they were at first. Couple people started catching on, but then when Donny walked out, everybody just went crazy.
Hank Smith:	00:50:58	That's so great.
John Bytheway:	00:50:59	So great.
Hank Smith:	00:51:01	Those of you watching on YouTube, we'll put some pictures up over the video feed here. I don't know if Brother or Sister Osmond listen to the show, but someone who knows them, tell them thank you for being part of our show today.
John Bytheway:	00:51:14	Yeah. And a special cameo.
Hank Smith:	00:51:16	Yeah, especially yeah. Well, come on the show. That's an invitation. Come on the show.
John Bytheway:	00:51:20	You're always welcome.
Hank Smith:	00:51:22	John, we never do a commercial on followHIM, but we're talking about women's conference and both of you know that I will be thrown out of my family if I don't mention that Women's Conference is having its 50th anniversary this year. I'm really excited for that. President Camille Johnson is speaking. Sister Tamara W. Runia is speaking. Elder Bednar is speaking. Sister Dew is speaking. Of course, many, many other speakers are coming and my sister, Jennefer, who runs that show will keep me in the family now that I've, I've told everybody.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	00:52:00	Well, it's an incredible experience. It's totally worth it.
John Bytheway:	00:52:04	I wanna throw something in, because as we've just outlined this backstory, I wanna fast forward it to the future and read something from one of my favorite writers and speakers, and I'll read it in my most interesting voice, although I won't be able to do it as well as he does. Listen to this storytelling. "In my imagination, I see Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, and Zilpah asking the Savior how and when he would fulfill the promise made to their family. I see them reminding him that he had promised priesthood, posterity, and

promised lands", which you told us about, Brad. "I picture them waiting eagerly, pacing back and forth until the Savior calls them over with a gesture toward the earth." This is beautiful writing. "He shows them a young boy, a humble farmer walking into a grove of trees in upstate New York and saying something like, I'm starting right now with him. Then with the sweep of his hand towards an innumerable host of spirits he had held back for this very moment, you, me, our parents and grandparents, our children and grandchildren, the Savior must have added something like, and they are my grand finale. If I were to ask a typical primary age child why they came to Earth, I imagine I'd hear things like to get a body or to be tested, to have a family, to become like Heavenly Father, which are all age appropriate answers.

00:53:32 But listen to how [Elder David A. Bednar](#) answered that question", I'm still quoting one of my favorite authors. "He said, We were foreordained in the premortal existence and born into mortality to fulfill the covenant and promise God made to Abraham. That is who we are, and that is why we are here today and always." That's the end of the quote from Elder Bednar, now back to my, one of my favorite speakers. "Now, please listen to me. You will always feel something missing from your life if you are not helping to gather Israel, and you will find your most profound and purest joys when you are fully engaged in his work with your loved ones. Why? Deep down, your spirit knows why you came here."

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:54:15 John, I know the doc. I know the doc. It was given to Ensign College by our very own Hank Smith.

John Bytheway: 00:54:23 By [Hank Smith](#). How do you find that Hank go to Ensign.edu?

Hank Smith: 00:54:27 Go to Ensign College's YouTube page and they'll have it.

John Bytheway: 00:54:31 What was the title of it, Hank?

Hank Smith: 00:54:32 The Righteousness Of Your Redeemer.

John Bytheway: 00:54:35 I wanna connect some Josephs here. Go to 2 Nephi 3. 2 Nephi 2, Lehi talks to Jacob. 2 Nephi 3, Lehi talks to Joseph about a prophecy of Joseph of Egypt. And then he mentions a latter day Joseph who will be named after the name of his father. That's four Josephs so far in this chapter. That Joseph, that, as you so beautifully put it, Hank, the Savior with a wave of his hand directs our attention to this grove of trees where Joseph walks

in and connects these Josephs all together. What a big story we're talking about today.

- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:55:14 Yeah. We need the big picture so that we can truly appreciate the things we cover now as we talk about Joseph, who is hated by his brothers. His brothers are envious of him. He gets sold as a slave. He gets beaten up and put in a pit. We also see that they take an animal and kill the animal to put blood on his garment, on his coat that they take to his father who then grieves his death. This is a horrendous experience, but without the big picture, you almost feel like the older brothers are justified because Joseph has been nothing but a braggart. Oh, all of you are gonna bow to me. I had a dream and I'm special and you're not. See, if we look at it without the big picture, then we can side with the brothers. If we see the big picture, then we realize that Joseph is actually a type of Jesus Christ, that his brothers are wrong to be working against him.
- 00:56:28 Then he goes into all kinds of struggles and trials. Talk about adversity. I mean, he faces adversity. He goes and then he's a slave and he's sold and he ends up being with Potiphar and he ends up making a name for himself in Potiphar's house. And because he is handsome, because he is strong, then Potiphar's wife starts trying to put her hooks into him. Look at what he's going through. Can we say he's blessed? Well, it depends on how you define a blessing. Blessing is anything that draws us closer to God. Then in a way he is being very blessed. Remember, the key isn't just that he was loved by God. He was trusted by God. And look at how he proves himself trustworthy.
- Hank Smith: 00:57:34 Brad, you said something earlier that I just loved and I hadn't thought about. You said Joseph is able to make these incredible decisions, overcome these temptations, survive trials because he knew who he was. That's why we did that whole story. That was something I was thinking about when I gave that devotional John talked about, was if you know who you are and why you came here, decisions, trials, temptations, they change for you.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 00:58:03 Absolutely. I mean, think about him. There was nobody in the house when Potiphar's wife made her advances. And he could have said, "Well, nobody will know." The reason he was able to be obedient, even when nobody was watching. I mean, anybody can do the right thing when the bishop's right there staring at you or when your mom and dad are right there, but he was able to, even in private, make righteous decisions because he did know who he was. He knew the covenant he'd entered. He knew the responsibilities that were his. He felt that sense of mission and he felt empowered because of this covenant

relationship. He had access to the power he needed. He was able to be trustworthy, not just loved, but trusted to do the right thing.

- John Bytheway: 00:59:01 I think it was in 2022 when [President Nelson](#) said these three identities and made the young single adults in attendance repeat them back. I'm a child of God. I'm a child of the covenant, which is what we're talking about today, and I'm a disciple of Christ. There may be times when you're thinking, I'm not good at overcoming temptation. Well, maybe you're not. You know who's really good at it? Jesus is. You are bound on a covenant with him. And he's really good at it. He's saying to Joseph, What's the title of our lesson? I will be with you. The Lord was with Joseph. And what do we say at the sacrament table? What do we hear? Always have his Spirit to be with them. That's why I'm so glad, Brad, you emphasized, this is a relationship. This is different. As you just said, Brad, you have access to the Lord's power. Together, what's our theme this year? Walk with him. And with me, you can do stuff and you have access to his power. Understanding of child of the covenant, that's what President Nelson was talking about.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 01:00:10 This bigger perspective helps us. This chapter where we're talking about Potiphar's wife, I mean, this has been the basis of many a chastity talk. Many a talk on standards, many a talk on living worthily. Yes, this could become a chastity talk, but as we're looking at the bigger picture, we have to understand that living the law of chastity is about much more than the dos and don'ts of sexual relationships. We're actually learning through the law of chastity the attributes of Christ and the attributes of God. Cleanliness is only one of God's attributes. There are so many other attributes that we need to be developing. The law of chastity can actually teach us those attributes. Attributes like charity, attributes like self-denial, attributes like postponed gratification, attributes like being willing to sacrifice something good for something better. Being willing to be loyal, being willing to be trustworthy. Those are the things when we covenant in the temple to live the law of chastity, we're talking about becoming more like God.
- 01:01:36 We're talking about being able to have an eternal family. It's the attributes of God that allow us to trust him. As we develop those attributes, he can trust us. And I think that that's the bigger picture that we need to keep in mind when we're looking at Joseph making a choice.
- Hank Smith: 01:02:01 Brad, I like where you're going with this. You could turn this into a law of chastity lesson, which would be very appropriate.

However, this isn't just about making good choices. This is about knowing where you fit in, in God's plan. You are in the house of Israel. You have been chosen by God to bless the entire earth.

Dr. Brad Wilcox:	01:02:28	You are a child of the covenant. You are youth of the noble birthright.
Hank Smith:	01:02:35	Coming up in part two.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	01:02:37	Elder Holland was overseeing the work in Chile. We got to spend part of our mission working directly with him. And it was amazing to watch how he dealt with some really serious problems. One time he came and he spoke to our mission. He did a little Q&A. I'll never forget when one of the missionaries...



- John Bytheway: 00:01 Welcome to part two with Brother Brad Wilcox, Genesis 37 to 41. I think about breaking of the law of chastity, but then what happened afterwards? This is another reason to admire Joseph. Okay, so good for Joseph, he fled, he got him out, is what it says. And because he was so awesome at keeping the law of chastity, he is immediately rewarded. No, he's thrown into prison unjustly. Knowing your identity helps you there as well. First time I ever heard the example of a vending machine, if I do this, I get this, was from you, Brad. This idea, I'm obedient, I get a blessing, you know, push the button, out comes blessing. Imagine how irritated we would be if we put our money in a vending machine and nothing happens. People punch vending machines and grab them and... Do this when they don't give you what you want.
- 01:01 Here's what [President Benson](#) said. One of the trials of this life is that we do not usually receive immediately the full blessing for righteousness or the full cursing for wickedness. That it will come, it is certain. But oftentimes, there is a waiting period that occurs, as was the case with Job and with Joseph. He said, He's doing the right thing knowing that eventually he'll be blessed, but it wasn't right away. I think that too, he had to rely on, I know who I am. I know what I'm supposed to be. I'm in prison unjustly, but maybe knowing his identity helped him through that.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 01:45 Notice that when he's in prison, he interprets dreams for those who are there. I mean, nobody comes to him and says, "Hey, the Pharaoh wants to see you. " He's just serving the people around him, trying to do what he can to help them. Sometimes all of us are waiting for some, like we said at the beginning of this program, some calling, some assignment so that we can stand up and do something. Remember, I said since I've been released, I found out that callings end, but covenants don't end. And he's there in the prison keeping his covenants. Of course, God is guiding him. Of course, God is inspiring him. Not just when he's talking to Pharaoh, but when he's talking to a butler, when he's talking to a baker, when he's talking to men who are

there with hope or without hope. He is serving where he is, keeping his covenants, even when it's not in a very visual and important way.

- Hank Smith: 02:54 I think this is a perfect time to come back to this Oh Youth of the Noble Birthright [talk](#). Does this mean you're better than others? No. It does mean you're expected to help others be better. Does your birthright mean you are chosen? Yes, but not chosen to rule. Chosen to serve. Is your birthright evidence of God's love? Yes, but more important, it is evidence of his trust. Your whole talk could be about Joseph. It is one thing to be loved and another thing entirely to be trusted. Then you quote the strength of youth pamphlet. Your Father in heaven trusts you. He has given you great blessings, including the fullness of the gospel and ordinances and covenants that bind you to him. With those blessings come responsibility.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 03:38 To make a difference, you have to be different. Joseph was willing to be different from the world. He didn't just do what everybody else would have done with Potiphar's wife. He didn't just do what every other prisoner would have done in the prison and take advantage of the other people around him. He chooses to be different. Thus, he makes a difference.
- Hank Smith: 04:02 In fact, Brad, what did we say the title of this lesson is? The Lord was with Joseph? Listen to Brad's General Conference talk here. As you fulfill your responsibilities, you are never alone. This is the story of Joseph of Egypt, and it can be our story.
- John Bytheway: 04:19 It's the story of a lot of people. I love that both Moses and Enoch had this objection to being called, but I'm slow of speech, whatever that means. And the Lord doesn't say, "You're the best, you're awesome." He just says, "I'll be with you." Here we are again, the same promise. I will be right there. Then there we are at the sacrament table getting that same promise. We can always have him to be with us.
- Hank Smith: 04:47 Both of you, would you say Joseph does not regret his decision to get away from Potiphar's wife? I don't think you'd go to Joseph and say, "Oh, I bet you wished you did that now." No. Look at verse 23, "Because the Lord was with him." And Brad, that's what you said earlier. He might be in terrible circumstances, but you're really never in terrible circumstances when the Lord is with you.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 05:10 And then these horrible circumstances that he's been in are the very thing that prepare him to be able to be of service to Pharaoh, of service to all the people of Egypt and of service to

his own family. I mean, good grief. It talks about how we can prepare for hardship. Well, it's the hardships. We could turn that phrase around. Instead of preparing for hardships, we need to realize that hardships prepare us for the future. Joseph is able to say, "Look, here is how we can handle this." Not because he has never experienced hardship, but because he has experienced hardship.

Hank Smith:	06:00	We're spoiling next week's lesson, but when he does see his brothers again, he doesn't say, "You did this to me."
John Bytheway:	06:07	He is amazing when he meets his brothers again. Yeah. It's an, "Oh, that's bad. No, that's good," type of statement.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	06:15	Yeah. Now, Hank, you said Joseph is such an incredible person because he knows who he is. John said earlier in the podcast that Joseph is a type of Christ. I mentioned it as well. And I think that's exactly where we need to go, is to now say, "What do we see in Joseph that points us to Christ?" Because then, as we develop these attributes, some of the same attributes that Joseph had, including knowing who he was and honoring the covenants that he'd made, how does that point to Jesus Christ?
John Bytheway:	07:00	I learned something from our friend, Tyler Griffin . He had a chart of Joseph as a son, a favored son, like Jesus condescends comes down to earth. He goes all the way down and becomes a slave or a servant like Jesus did. What happens then he, Joseph's case, works himself up to, he's one of the head servants, then boom, down again to a prisoner. There's even a time when Jesus is in chains and in prison. Then, goes, Joseph works himself up to royalty and he kind of made that comparison of those roles anyway of Joseph and of Jesus. There's other parts of being a deliverer and a savior that are easier to see.
Hank Smith:	07:46	I see something simple here in Genesis 39 that he did not give in to temptation and was the one punished.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	07:54	Which is exactly what happened with Christ. Joseph was a shepherd. Christ is a shepherd. Joseph was sold for pieces of silver. Christ was sold for pieces of silver. You just see so many connections that you definitely see that through this story, God isn't just saying, "I want you to be like this role model." But he's saying, "This man is a role model because he is so much like Christ." That's who we need to be trying to become more like is Jesus Christ. That's who can empower us in this journey.

Hank Smith:	08:43	And hopefully this isn't a spoiler. Most people know how this story ends, but he ends up forgiving the people who put him in this situation. In fact, he says it was God who sent me here, not you, to save your lives.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	09:00	Dreams that had made the brothers and even his father so upset are actually realized every one of them.
John Bytheway:	09:09	There's even some more, like, really detailed ones. Joseph was sold at 17 years old, but he was 30 years old when he began serving with Pharaoh. It was just like Jesus began his ministry at 30 years old.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	09:25	I've never thought of that one, John.
John Bytheway:	09:27	The thing that it reminds me of Hank is our very first episode where the emphasis the manual gave was to look for types of Christ, and it gave us a few to look at. Lamb of God, manna, Moses, a serpent, the sign of Jonah, but there's more. Joseph is another type of Christ. And as we go through the Old Testament, look for types and shadows of Christ.
Hank Smith:	09:49	Let's talk about persevering through painful experiences because we all know how this story ends. We know the songs. And we're saying to him, "Oh, don't worry. Chapter 47 is coming. It's gonna work out great for you." But he doesn't know that. How do you maintain that perspective when you're laying in your Egyptian bunk going, nothing ever goes right for me. Are you sure? Like, there's gotta be moments of, am I doing something wrong? I know a lot of Latter-day Saint youth, probably non-youth who, the moment something really bad happens, they, "What did I do wrong?" In your experiences, how do you get through great, great difficulty when you really are trying to do the right thing?
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	10:37	I think a lot of it has to do with keeping that big picture in mind, keeping the plan of salvation in mind, because as we see that bigger picture, then we're able to start making sense of some of the things that are happening to us. Faith is not just knowing that God can do something. Faith is knowing why sometimes he doesn't. That why comes as we look at that bigger plan, because then we're able to start saying, "Okay, this isn't exactly what I was expecting. This isn't what I was thinking. This isn't what I wanted." But because of the atonement of Jesus Christ, I can be educated because of these horrific experiences instead of defeated by them or condemned by them. That's what gives us this chance. We've talked about knowing who you are. We also need to talk about knowing whose you are.

- 11:51 With God, we've got his help, but then when suddenly we don't feel like God is helping us, when we've prayed and prayed and prayed for that answer or that blessing and his timing is just not what we are expecting, then I think we can fall back. In April of 22, [President Oaks](#) gave a talk in General Conference and said, "People will never understand our doctrine and our policies until they understand the plan of salvation." [Elder Renlund](#) said in April of 22, Without the plan of salvation, we will always be perpetually children. See, we'll always be the kid who thinks God is Santa Claus. And then why didn't he give me this? Because I've been nice. I haven't been naughty. And why didn't he give me this? Why didn't he fulfill his part of the bargain? And then we're gonna throw a temper tantrum like a child does because we didn't get what we wanted when we wanted it.
- 12:57 If we know the plan of salvation, then suddenly we can grow up. We can grow up spiritually and we can say, there is purpose in this. I may not see it right now, but there is purpose in this. And in the end, this can work for my benefit. The only sin, the only trial, the only thing that God through the power of Christ's Atonement cannot turn for our good is the sin of Satan. If we choose to rebel, sin at its core, then we make it impossible because we've used our agency to turn away from God. Because we've used our agency in that way, then he cannot be with us. Not because he's turned his back on us or he's punishing us, but because we've turned our back on him. If we will just stay with him and know him well enough to trust him, then we can see that in the long run, truly, all things can work together for our good. But that takes a big picture.
- John Bytheway: 14:30 What the plan of salvation does is take off the blinders and let us know this is temporary. Thy suffering and thine afflictions will be but a, what was Joseph told? Small moment. Take off the blinders and you'll see there's that waiting period that occurs. When the vending machine doesn't work, you get mad. But in the context of trying to do the right thing and not seeing the blessing, that's when we trust in the Lord. That's the phrase. We might have to trust for a long time. Joseph Smith and others know all about. Crying out in Liberty Jail, why is this happening? Thy suffering, thy afflictions will be a small moment. Take off the blinders, you'll be exalted on high. Easy to say, hard to do.
- Dr. Brad Wilcox: 15:18 Yeah. If we go to that Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways, acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel and marrow to thy bones. Despise not the chastening of the Lord. Neither be weary in his

correction. Whom the Lord loveth, the Lord correcteth. Even as a father, the child in whom he delighteth. These are the scriptures right there that tell us that we can trust even when we can't quite understand why this happened or why God let it happen or why somebody else's agency let it happen or why mortality let it happen. We can trust. That's a beautiful promise.

Hank Smith:

16:30

Do you remember when [President Monson](#) talked about a woman right after World War II? She was living in East Prussia. Then the World War changed everything. Her young husband was killed, leaving her alone to care for four children. She then has to travel on foot with her four children over a thousand miles. They didn't have food or money. She was forced to gather a daily sustenance from the fields and the forests along the way. Weeks turned into months, the temperatures dropped. Her smallest child, a baby in her arms, her three other children struggled along behind her, with the oldest seven years old. Then the snows came, then the unthinkable. She felt a chill in her heart. The tiny form of her three-year-old daughter was cold and still. Though overwhelmed with grief, she knew she had to take the other children and travel on. First, however, she used the only implement she had, a tablespoon to dig a grave in the frozen ground for her precious child.

17:44

Death was to be her companion again and again. She lost her seven-year-old. She lost her five-year-old. Then she loses her last child, her baby. And at that last death, you guys, the spoon was gone. Hour after hour, she dug a grave in the frozen earth with her bare fingers. She had lost her husband and all her children. In this moment of overwhelming sorrow, she felt her heart would literally break. In despair, she contemplated how she might end her own life. And then, something within her said, "Get down on your knees and pray." She knelt and prayed more fervently than she had in her entire life. "Dear Heavenly Father, I do not know how I can go on. I have nothing left, except my faith in thee. I feel Father, amidst the desolation of my soul an overwhelming gratitude for the atoning sacrifice of thy son, Jesus Christ.

18:56

I cannot express adequately my love for him. I know that because he suffered and died, I shall live again with my family, that because he broke the chains of death, I shall see my children again and will have the joy of raising them. Though I do not at this moment wish to live. I will do so. That we may be reunited as a family and return together to thee. She finally reaches her destination in Germany. She was emaciated. Her face was purple gray. Her eyes red and swollen. Her joints protruding. She was in the advanced stages of starvation. In a

		church meeting, shortly thereafter, she bore a glorious testimony.
John Bytheway:	19:39	Amazing.
Hank Smith:	19:40	Incredible. The perseverance you can muster when you are yoked with the Lord.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	19:47	Amen.
John Bytheway:	19:48	We like to talk about how so much of the gospel makes sense. Sometimes because so many things do make sense, we want everything to make sense. And make sense right now. If I could add to the Book of Abraham, I don't think I'm allowed to do that, but ... And I will prove them herewith to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them, even when it doesn't make sense. That's what I wanna add. That was Father Adam. Why are you offering sacrifices? I don't know. I think there will come a day when things make better sense. We hear the Savior say, "He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world." If we really know he loves us, we know there's ... Something is coming that will help us make sense.
Hank Smith:	20:38	Brad, in your Book of Mormon classes, when we talk about the Fall, the Fall doesn't necessarily explain why I go through everything I go through, but it does give me some answers. It does give me a place to say, "Well, this was part of coming here."
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	20:54	Now, this is a school, and schools can be hard, and tests can be hard, but they're going to help us. I can fight through darkness knowing that redemption comes. And that there is purpose in this. It's not just wasted experience. There is purpose in this.
Hank Smith:	21:18	Brad, John, what about when it's someone else's agency that hurt me? There's one thing to be said of, well, this happened and it happens to everyone, right? Difficulty happens to everyone, but then you have moments where it's just infuriating unfairness where someone else's agency took almost everything from me. We've seen this in marriages. We've seen this in abuse.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	21:46	His brother's agency leaves him in a pit, sold as a slave.
Hank Smith:	21:54	Those are the most heartbreaking times. These are people who are supposed to love you. This is your family, and yet it's the

complete opposite. That betrayal. I wonder if there's a therapist in Egypt who can help Joseph deal with this kind of betrayal. Let's speak to that for just a minute, if you would. So many of the pains and trials and difficulties that we face in this life are the result of other people's agency. I know I have hurt people. With my agency, we've all been on both sides of this. Oh, it is so heartbreaking when someone steals so much from your life.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 22:37

[Elder Neal A. Maxwell](#) used to always explain that sometimes our trials and challenges are because of our own choices, sometimes because of the poor choices of others, and sometimes just because of mortality. But he would always say, no matter the reason, God can still make those into something that can be positive for us in our lives. Now, that's a lot to grab onto, especially when you're hurting. But listen to what else Elder Maxwell said. Why do bad things happen to good people? Maybe it's because good people are the most ready to learn.

Hank Smith: 23:26

Brad, I think you're right on there. It can be so infuriating if we think God can't do anything with this unfairness. You were supposed to love me. You threw a wrench in my whole life. I have to believe, I have to know that God can consecrate my affliction for my gain. How often does someone get to hurt me? Think about Joseph. Here's my family who's supposed to love me that betrays me. I work my way back into some sort of success, and it gets stolen again. At that point, I think I would be in my Egyptian prison going, the only real answer for this is that God hates me. That's gotta be the only explanation, because every time something good is happening, you allow someone to come and take it away from me. Brad, you said, why do bad things happen to good people? It's like, well, why do good things happen to bad people? Right? How come they don't get in trouble? How come they seemingly get away with harming me?

John Bytheway: 24:29

You have probably both have had parents say to you, this agency thing is really painful, actually. Watching my kids make choices, or as you've talked about, other people that make choices that hurt you, and the more I study the scriptures, the more I think the Lord's probably going, yeah, tell me about it. We just saw the vision of Enoch. How is it that thou canst weep and what was he weeping about? I created them, I gave them their agency, and they're without affection. They hate their own blood, and he's weeping. In that space, we are like God who's also weeping at people who are misusing their agency. He has power to make things right eventually. And I think about [Elder Renlund's saying](#) that he doesn't want people to keep the commandments. He wants them to choose to keep the

commandments. There has to be agency so that we can make that choice. We will have some pain in life because of other people's using or not using very well their agency. God knows all about that as well.

Hank Smith: 25:44

A member of our team, you hear her at the end of every episode, her name is Lisa Spice. Anyone who's been a guest on followHIM in Brad's place loves Lisa Spice. A lot of people don't know, and I don't need to go into a lot of detail, but Lisa had infuriating unfairness happen to her for a long time. I asked her, I said, Lisa, what do we do? What do we say when, when you experience that kind of unfairness? She said, I don't know. You've trusted before and you've experienced miracles before, so you keep walking. It's okay that it's a difficult walk. It's full of darkness and doubt. You keep walking. I had blessings that told me ancestors on the other side were helping me. Sometimes I couldn't feel it, but I trusted. I had a blessing that told me it would help me in a small part understand the Savior, and the betrayal and the suffering he experienced, and it felt like a privilege to be like him. I used to think God didn't mind us being uncomfortable, but didn't want us to suffer, but now I think suffering is part of the plan. It is what makes us more Christ-like, and that's what matters. Keep walking, she said. Keep walking.

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 27:07

Love it. When Debbie and I had the chance to be mission leaders 20 years ago, it was when Elder Holland was overseeing the work in Chile. We got to spend part of our mission working directly with him, and it was amazing to watch how he dealt with some really serious problems, some real serious issues and a lot of real serious pain. He was able to do that so well and with so much love and with so much compassion. One time he came and he spoke to our mission, he did a little Q&A. I'll never forget when one of the missionaries who was going through some hard times, I knew about the hard times because I was his mission president. I knew about the hurt that he was feeling because family members were making choices that were breaking his heart. I knew about some of the personal challenges that he was facing.

28:19

I knew about some of the rejection he'd faced and some of the things that people had said about him behind his back that weren't true. I knew all of the pain that he was expressing in his question to [Elder Holland](#), and he said, Why does it have to be so hard? I can't even get one foot in front of the other. I can't even deal with one issue before another one knocks me down. I can't even share the gospel with one person before he rejects it. Why does it have to be so hard? Elder Holland said to him something that he said later when he spoke to missionaries in

the MTC, but I heard him say it to my missionary. He said, How can we expect it to be easy for us when it was never easy for Christ? The reason we've been saying that Joseph stands as a type of Christ is because of all the suffering that Joseph went through.

29:42 Talk about undeserved suffering. How can we expect to be his disciples? How can we expect to claim to represent him if we haven't taken a few steps toward Gethsemane. If we haven't taken a few steps toward Calvary, if we haven't wept at a tomb, how can we expect it to be easy for us when it was never easy for him? Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Yeah, sometimes he's not gonna lead us through the green pastures. Sometimes he's not gonna take us to still waters because green pastures and still waters are not always going to be the thing that can teach us and help us the most, but he will be with us. And if he can do what was so hard and so unfair, then he can help us do it too. Where he leads us, we can safely go.

Hank Smith: 31:16 That's a beautiful thought. Brad, I think [Elder Renlund](#) could be your mission companion in this lesson. His talk, Infuriating Unfairness April of 2021. The title of this lesson could be Infuriating Unfairness. That's just not fair. He says, "When faced with unfairness, we can push ourselves away from God or we can be drawn toward him for help and support. Do not let unfairness harden you or corrode your faith in God. Instead, ask God for help. Rather than becoming bitter, let him help you become better. Allow him to help you persevere, to let your afflictions, like you said, Brad, this is real, these aren't easy things, to let your afflictions be swallowed up in the joy of Christ. He understands unfairness. The marks in the palms of his hands remind him of you and your circumstances. Your faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ will be rewarded more than you can imagine. All unfairness, especially infuriating unfairness, will be consecrated for your gain.

John Bytheway: 32:38 I've had times where the only person who knew my heart was God. That's all I had. That was enough. Even if it was a church member, a well-meaning church member, or maybe somebody who wasn't well-meaning, God saw the whole thing. If that's the only thing you've got to hang onto is that God knows, that's a pretty good thing to hang onto, is that God knows what happened.

Hank Smith: 33:07 I think of our listeners out there who are thinking, this is me. This is my life. I was trying to do the right thing. Yes, I wasn't

perfect, but I was trying to do the right thing. These people came and stole my life, or this person came and destroyed my life, and they've seemingly made out fine. I'm here in some sort of metaphorical prison.

John Bytheway: 33:31 Job's friends at first just came and sat with him, and that was perfect. And then they opened their mouths and everything went south. But for the first couple of days, they sat with them. As soon as you start telling people, well, maybe God needed them more than you did, or maybe you can love someone else's child, or just, don't even go there. Just sit with people. It's okay to be uncomfortable for a while. I hope people notice it. That you brought up 23rd Psalm, thou art with me. That was the title of the lesson. The Lord was with Joseph.

Hank Smith: 34:08 Brad, will you speak to those who are suffering? I've seen you do this personally. You've done this with me. We have people listening who are suffering. John, what did you say? It's easier said than done. You wanna believe this. Your chapter 46, 47, 48, 50 is coming. Yet, here you are back in chapter 37, 38, 39, and you can't see that. Brad, you're such a gentle, good soul. I've known you for almost 20 years. If you could talk to an individual who is suffering, what would you say?

Dr. Brad Wilcox: 34:47 First of all, just cry with you. Because of the plan of salvation, we have answers. We have explanations. But sometimes when you're hurting, you don't need the explanations. You don't need the answers. Not right then. I think that we just need somebody who's just willing to cry with us. Isn't it beautiful when Mary and Martha have lost their brother and Jesus comes? Jesus weeps because they're weeping. He is sad because Mary is sad. He knows that just in a minute, he's gonna raise Lazarus from the dead. He knows that they're gonna be the happiest pair of sisters in the universe. But he still takes time to validate their heartache, to just be able to say, I know this is hard. I recognize that what you're going through is not easy. But hang in there. If we learned anything from our dear Elder Holland, it's whether the blessings come now or whether they come later, they will come. They might not come until long into the eternities, but they will come. So hang in there and hang on. Don't give in. Don't give up.

36:26 I think of times in my own life when I've been hurting and I'm grateful for friends who have been true friends and wept with me and blessed me, given me blessings, not blessings that I requested, blessings that they offered. I've been grateful for friends who are willing to say, Brad, hang in there. You've got this because Jesus Christ has got you. Sometimes when we're

hurting, that's all we need. We don't need a lecture. We don't need the right answer or the way we should feel. What we need is somebody who just shows up at your door with a puzzle and says, do you need a blessing? Somebody who'll be willing to hug you and cry with you. One thing that sets us apart in our understanding of God is that we believe in a God who has a body, parts, and passions. We believe in a God who weeps and he weeps with us. When I spoke in General Conference, I said to the youth, you've got this because Jesus Christ has got you. When we think of the temple, when we think of how Jesus, when we are in a covenant relationship, will literally hold our hand tighter and tighter, closer and closer until he literally holds us in a clasp. Then we start understanding that in this covenant relationship, we can go on because we are not alone. He literally has got us.

Hank Smith:	38:50	Brad, thank you so much for your time today. Thank you for joining us. The followHIM team loves Dr. Brad Wilcox.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	38:58	And Brad Wilcox loves you so much. Thank you.
Hank Smith:	39:03	With that, we want to thank Dr. Brad Wilcox for joining us today. We want to thank our executive producer, Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors, David and Verla Sorensen, and every episode we remember our founder. He loved you, Brad, Steve Sorensen.
Dr. Brad Wilcox:	39:21	What a great man.
Hank Smith:	39:23	Great soul, all the way through. We hope you'll join us next week. We're going to follow the story of Joseph of Egypt even further on followHIM. As a thank you to our wonderful listeners, we'd love to gift you the digital version of our book, Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. It offers short, meaningful insights drawn from our past Old Testament episodes. Visit followhim.co , that's followhim.co to download your free copy today, and you'll also find the link to purchase the print edition. Thank you for being part of our followHIM family. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew. David Perry, Lisa Spice, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, Heather Barlow, Amelia Kabwika, Sydney Smith, and Annabelle Sorensen.

followHIM Favorites



Hank Smith:	00:03	Welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I share a single story to go with each week's Come, Follow Me lesson. John, Joseph of Egypt, Genesis chapters 37 through 41. It's your turn to give us a followHIM Favorites story.
John Bytheway:	00:18	I remember this interesting phrase in the story of Joseph when Potiphar's wife grabbed him. This is Genesis 39:12. She caught him by his garment saying, "Lie with me," and he left his garment in her hand and fled and got him out. Remember that phrase, "Got him out. " Now, rewind way back to the 20th century, probably the '70s. I am playing Little League baseball at Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City. And I'm a center fielder. And my coach used to, because we're like, I don't know, eight or nine or 10. He used to come out and yell at us, "Think." He would just yell, "Think." Our job was to say something that wouldn't occur to us, was, "What will I do if the ball comes to me? " This is a great skill. In little league. I actually did. I thought there's a runner on first.
	01:13	There's one out. If the ball is on the fly, I'll try to catch it. I'll throw it to second base. If it's a grounder, I'll catch it. I'll probably watch the runner, throw it to second or third. I've got it all figured out. Our pitcher winds up, throws the ball, and the batter smacks it, and it's right to me in the center field. But it was a little short. I'm running forward, and out of the corner of my eye, I can see the runner taking off first base. And I thought, "He doesn't think I'm gonna catch it, because you gotta tag up. You gotta stay on first until the ball is caught." He's running to second. I run up, and I caught the ball, and I winged it to the second baseman. Who got the guy out? I got him out.
Hank Smith:	01:55	Nice job.
John Bytheway:	01:58	I remember Coach Mark Duran running out of the dugout, screaming, "Nice job, Bytheway." What a great lesson that was to think first what you're gonna do if something comes up.

Because of that, I knew exactly what to do. That was like my only glory moment of Little League Baseball.

Hank Smith: 02:23 Hey, people don't know. John Bytheway is quite an athlete.

John Bytheway: 02:26 Oh, yeah.

Hank Smith: 02:26 Yeah,

John Bytheway: 02:27 Thanks Hank. All my high school friends are shaking their head right now. I love the idea of think what you're gonna do first. I wrote it up for the New Era. I said, "You know when someone says think fast and throws a ball at you?"

Hank Smith: 02:40 Right.

John Bytheway: 02:41 So I thought a fun title would be, "It's Better to Think First Than Think Fast." The New Era did not like my title, so they changed it to Think First, Act Fast, but I still like, it's better to think first than to think fast.

Hank Smith: 02:55 I like yours better too.

John Bytheway: 02:57 That was the lesson. I knew what I was gonna do before the situation came, and you probably know that lots of church leaders have talked about that. If you feel like you're in a place where you might be tempted, what are you gonna do? Think about it first, then you can get out.

Hank Smith: 03:14 That's beautiful, John. You'd be crazy to think he's making this decision right now. No, he made this decision a long time ago. This was just the moment he, the, the decision was actually public, but he had made that decision a long time ago. "How could I do this?" He says, "How could I do this?" I love it. It can be a good skill, by the way, that if you're tempted, run. Physically.

John Bytheway: 03:38 Yeah. Get out.

Hank Smith: 03:38 Get out of there.

John Bytheway: 03:40 Exactly. Don't sit and think about it. Make a chart. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this sin here?

Hank Smith: 03:49 Yeah, come here, Potiphar's wife. Let's talk through this. We hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcast. We're with Dr. Brad

Wilcox this week. Brad's one of our favorite people in the whole world, and you're gonna love what he does with these chapters, and then come back here next week. We'll do another followHIM Favorites.