

## Side By Side - Chapter 16 "Help Fellow Sinners" February 25<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Reflections on Sunday's Sermon (Genesis 39):

1.	What is an important truth that stood out to you in Genesis 39 that you will commit to thinking and
	raying about this week?

2. What do you feel that the Lord has been teaching you about yourself, Jesus, and/or the gospel through His Word and through the sermon on Sunday (February 25<sup>th</sup>)?

### <u>Prayer</u>

As you begin your study this week, spend a few moments thanking God for His grace and mercy despite your failures. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see all the more clearly His abounding grace in light of your ongoing struggle with sin. Ask Him to give you the desire, insight, and compassion necessary to point your brothers and sisters in Christ to His abounding grace in the midst of their failures and struggles. As you pray, consider the following words of this prayer taken from Everyday Prayers by Scotty Smith and make them your own before the Lord.

"Dear Jesus, make me a much more refreshing person. Fill my heart with your mercy Give me gospel eyes to see others as you see them. Sensitize my spirit with your Spirit. Free me from working hard just to get my to-do list done, that I might work hard at bringing refreshment to others.

Jesus, please make me aware today of those who really need encouragement, some reason to hope, a concrete manifestation of care. It may be at the price of an airline ticket to find them. It may simply be a walk across the street, a drive across town, a face-to-face visit, a hug, a call, an e-mail, a text – some small thing that will bring a profit beyond my imagining.

Jesus... You've broken my chains and you've borne my shame. May I offer a refreshing taste of your kindness to others today, no matter what their chains are. I pray in your loving and liberating name. Amen."

\*The following content is directly copied from the Study Guide for

# Side by Side

Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love

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#### 16

# **Help Fellow Sinners**

#### Overview

We have already established that our sin is more problematic than our suffering. And although talking about sin is difficult, God calls us to help one another deal with it. Only then will we flourish in the ways God intends. Being alert to temptation and what triggers it—both in ourselves and in those with whom we walk—is an important part of growing up in our faith and helping others do likewise. We also need wisdom for handling failure, for times when we've succumbed to temptation. And most of all, we need to help one another see that where sin abounds, God's grace abounds more (Rom. 5:20).

#### Questions for Discussion or Reflection

2. How are we helped by bringing temptations out into the open?

3. Paul writes: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13). Name specific ways you have seen this work out in your own life.

4. Why do many addictions have their roots in wilderness times?

5.	On page 143 Welch gives us a set of three questions we can ask one another about our various temptations. Do you feel able both to ask and to answer those questions? Why or why not?
	At times we must decide whether sin we witness someone committing needs to be called out or covered. How do we decide? When thinking through our approach, what factors should <i>not</i> be determinative?
7.	Welch writes, "Sin is really about the Lord" (p. 147). Explain what he means.
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Re	eview your answers to the questions on page 152 and then consider them afresh below.
1.	After reading chapter 16, you were asked to note what stands out to you about this chapter. Has your answer changed since then?
2.	Concerning the challenges issued in this chapter, are you motivated to take them on, or are you a bit intimidated? If the latter, describe what seems so daunting.