

“The Life of Joseph”

Gen. 37-39

Open: Intro:

- Joseph was the oldest of two sons born to Rachel. Rachel was unable to have children, until God answered her prayer and gave to her Joseph and Benjamin.
- Both Joseph and Benjamin held a special place in the heart of Jacob, especially after the death of his first love, Rachael.
- Through the study of Joseph’s life, we will watch a young man face adversity and watch as he chooses to not become bitter at God, but instead allow God to make him into what He wants him to be.

Tran: Joseph’s life is going to be an example of how...

- God will always fulfill His will through the life of an obedient Christian.
- God’s will for the life of a Christian is full of ups and downs.
- A child of God can remain faithful and fruitful during the times of difficulty.
 - Joseph’s life shows the importance of developing character and good habits at an early age.

I. Joseph the *Prodigy*.

• Gen 37:1-17

- A. Joseph was obedient. **vs. 2a**– At a young age, he did not allow the actions of those around him to determine whether or not he was going to do what was right. (Are you will to be alone in doing right?)
- B. Joseph did not allow evil to go unnoticed **vs. 2b** – True love in a family is defined by doing what is necessary to protect those you love. (How much do you love your family)
- C. Joseph was not ashamed of his father’s love. **vs. 3-4** – Joseph knew what his brothers thought and said, but he did not allow that cause him to be ashamed of who he was. (Are you ashamed of the cloak of Christianity your Father has given you to wear?)
- D. Joseph was not ashamed to speak the truth to his family. **vs. 5-11**
 - i. Joseph did not hide the truth that he had received from God.
 - ii. Will you hinder the truth’s effectiveness through your life? **Matt. 5:14-16** “*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. [15] Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”
- E. Joseph’s character and work ethic made him trustworthy at an early age. **vs. 12-17** (Will you continue to be a hard worker and truthful even when it brings criticism to your life?)

II. Joseph in the *Pit*.

• Gen. 37:18-35

- A. Joseph’s brothers hated him so much they were prepared to kill him. **vs. 20** (Doing right will always draw unwanted negativity; but it is still right to do.)
 - i. **II Tim. 3:11-12** “*Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. [12] Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*”
 - ii. **Ps. 34:19** “*Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*”
- B. Ruben, stood up for Joseph. **vs. 21-22**
 - i. Those who do right, and are genuine, will always receive help from unexpected places.
 - ii. Joseph did not think he was making a difference; but he was.
- C. Joseph is cast into a pit and his coat of many colors was taken, but he remained true to who he was. **vs. 23-24** (The world may mock and criticize your belief; but they can never change who you are.)
- D. Joseph is sold into slavery and is proclaimed as dead. **vs. 25-35** (What are you will to sacrifice to remain true and loyal to your beliefs.)

III. Joseph in the house of Potiphar.

- Gen. 37:36 & 39:1-19

- A. Joseph was not just sold as a slave to a nobody, God's hand was on Joseph's life even when Joseph did not see it; Joseph was sold to a captain of the guard, and officer of Pharaoh. vs. 36
- i. Joseph could not see how any good would come from his life, but God was working His will in Joseph's life.
 - ii. Do not get made at God when things do not go the way you think they should.
- B. We find Joseph being blessed by God in a bad situation because Joseph did not forsake his belief in God, nor did he change because he was upset at God. Gen. 39:1-6
- C. We find Joseph being faced with a choice to obey or to yield to his fleshly desires. vs. 7-12
- i. Recognize that there was no let-up in Joseph's life; it was one test after another...but Joseph remained faithful to his God. Gal. 6:7-9 *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. [8] For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. [9] And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*
 - ii. Joseph remained true to his character and chose to not in any way do wrong against his master or his God. vs. 10
- D. Joseph finds himself being attacked because he would not trade his principles for pleasure. vs. 11-19

Close:

- Joseph's life was not easy.
- Joseph's life shows us that you can make the hard choice and do right.
- Joseph's life shows us that doing right is always right and that doing right will always work out in the end.

Prov. 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

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1. What was the name of Rachel's only two children? Joseph & Benjamin
 2. What did Jacob make as a sign of his love for Joseph? A coat of many colors
 3. Where did Joseph's brothers decide to put Joseph instead of killing him? A pit.
 4. To whom did Joseph get sold after he was sold as a slave? Potiphar
 5. Where was Joseph placed after being accused of wrongdoing? Prison