



## Pastor Derrick Shields "A Life Of Wholeness: Breaking the Power of Your Past" 2/27/2022

### Key Verses:

- Genesis 50:15-21

### Key Thoughts:

- Most of us rarely consider how our family of origin and significant people/events from our past have shaped our present.
- We sometimes use verses like John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 to deny the impact of the past on our present. It's true that when we come to Christ, we are declared righteous and given a new life. However, there's still something to the impact of our family on who we are now.
- ***The work of growing in Christ (sanctification) does not mean we don't go back to the past as we press ahead to what God has for us. It actually demands we go back in order to break free from unhealthy and destructive patterns that prevent us from loving ourselves and others as God designed.***
- Our families are the most powerful group to which we'll ever belong, their ways of doing life follow us wherever we go.
- We see a pattern of sin and brokenness in the life of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
  - Lying – Abraham lied twice about Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah's marriage was characterized by lies. Jacob lied to almost everyone and his name means "deceiver". Ten of Jacob's children lied about Joseph's death, faking a funeral and keeping a "family secret" for more than ten years.
  - Favoritism – Abraham favored Ishmael. Isaac favored Esau. Jacob favored Joseph and later Benjamin.
  - Poor intimacy in marriages – Abraham had a child out of wedlock with Hagar. Isaac had a terrible relationship with Rebekah. Jacob had two wives and two concubines.
- We are introduced to Joseph in Genesis 37. He's 17 years old and he's the favored son of Jacob. Because of their jealousy, his brothers plot to kill him before eventually selling him into slavery. He finds favor with Potiphar, until he's thrown in jail after being accused of trying to sleep with his wife. Then he finds favor in jail, but those who promised to remember him don't. After a course of events, he finds himself in the second position of the most prominent country in the world at the time.

### How Joseph Broke the Power of His Past:

1. *Joseph had a profound sense of the Sovereignty and Goodness of God.*
- We continue pursuing spiritual disciplines so that we can know the Lord for ourselves. Knowing the Lord helps us break the cycles of our past.
2. *Joseph was able to be honest about the sadness and losses in his family.*



- When we're silent about our family issues, we internalize them and we either internalize or we exaggerate the impact.
3. *Joseph rewrote his life script according to the will of God.*
    - His life script could've said he wasn't good enough and unwanted. But because he was following the will of God, his life script said something completely different.
  4. *Joseph partnered with God to be a blessing to many.*
    - At the end of Genesis 50:20, Joseph comes to the realization that what was meant for his harm, God meant for good, for the saving of many lives.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you ever considered how your family of origin has contributed to who you are today? Why or why not?
- What value is there in processing the reality of your family of origin with the Lord?
- What would it look like for you to surrender the pains of your past (mistakes, sins, setbacks, and disappointments) to God today?
- Which of the ways that Joseph broke the power of his past do you most need to implement into your life? How can you begin to do this?