

Message: Joseph: Walking with God in a Dysfunctional Family

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4

FIVE IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS FROM JOSEPH'S LIFE

1. Joseph's story is the longest in Genesis.
2. The life of Joseph is the greatest and clearest picture of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.
3. Joseph experienced the powerful truth in Romans 8:28.
4. Joseph shows us faithfulness to God no matter what.
5. Joseph and his brothers decisions are a result of family dysfunction.

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Genesis 37:1-4

THREE PROMISES TO HOLD ONTO WHEN HURT BY DYSFUNCTION

1. God makes himself known to the humble who hunger for God.
2. God is at work around you all the time.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. Genesis 37:23-24

3. God has a specific purpose He has designed you to fulfill.
Joseph had to be lost, before he was saved.

"We have a God who turns all deaths into resurrections..... and he has a dream for our future glory." Tim Keller

OVERCOMING DIFFICULT STARTS

1. Acknowledge God's sovereignty.
2. Choose responsibility and break the cycle.

"The last of all great human freedoms is to choose one's response to any given set of circumstances." Victor Frankl

3. Take the long look.
4. Remember God uses trials to purify and strengthen our character.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12-13