

WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

"Joseph: The Life of Success"

Genesis 37-50

INTRODUCTION:

1. Providence - is God's directing everything to it's divinely appointed goal!!!
 - a) God fulfills his divine purpose throughout the universe.
 - 1) God rules all natural forces.
 - 2) God rules in the animal kingdom.
 - 3) God rules in the angelic realm.
 - 4) God rules among the nations.
 - 5) God rules in the lives of individual persons.
 - 6) God rules in overruling in peoples misfortunes.
 - b) Joseph's life - **Genesis 15:12-13** (God ratifies unconditional covenant with Abraham).
2. We see one "image" of life from our human perspective.
3. Our lives are made up of individual moments.
 - a) Some we understand and some we don't.
 - 1) **Ephesians 2:10**
 - 2) **2 Corinthians 5:7**
4. The story of Joseph journeys through his ambition, his temptation, and his brilliance and wisdom.
 - a) Joseph's life is a picture of the success of FAITH.
 - 1) From TRAGEDY to TRIUMPH

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR LIFE

I. OUR LIVES ARE CRITICAL IN HISTORY

1. The life of Joseph connects the story of Abraham and his descendants to a nation of over 2 million people.
2. Remember Joseph was sold into slavery as a teenager by his brothers and in time was elevated to prominence in Egypt.
3. Through his wisdom Joseph led the nation to store up grain for 7 years of famine.
 - a) **Genesis 46:27**
 - b) **Exodus 1:5**

4. Pharaoh gave Joseph permission to settle his family in Goshen where they lived 400+ years.

a) **Exodus 12:40**

1) And they increased in number to more than 2 million.

2) **Genesis 47:27**

5. Had it not been for Joseph being in Egypt there would have been no rescue.

a) **Genesis 15:1-5**

b) **Genesis 22:17**

6. Joseph is indispensable in history.

a) 70 people turned into a nation of 2 million.

II. OUR LIVES ARE DIRECTED BY GOD

1. **Romans 8:28**

2. **Genesis 45:1-8**

3. WOW!!! **Genesis 50:19-20**

4. Joseph believed in the Providence of God.

a) And that God's purposes were bigger than **MAN'S PLANS**.

5. Joseph saw that God could take a bad thing and make it into a good thing.

a) The story of Joseph **IS** the **STORY** of the **PROVIDENCE** of God.

III. OUR LIVES ARE NEVER WASTED

1. There are many lessons to be learned from losing.

2. God took all of Joseph's failures and made him a winner.

a) Joseph's story is all about the providence of God.

3. **Genesis 37:2-11**

4. Joseph knew his dreams were a message from God.

5. One day while his brothers were all in the field working they saw Joseph coming.

a) **Genesis 37:18-27**

6. All of this was in the providential hand of God.

a) **Genesis 15:13** (Remembering God's promise to Abraham.)

7. Genesis 39:2-5; 23

IV. OUR LIVES WILL BE TESTED

A. THE TEST OF SELF-PITY

1. Joseph was persecuted by his own brothers.
 - a) They threw him in a pit.
 - b) Sold him to slave traders.
 - c) He was falsely accused and thrown into prison.
 - d) Betrayed by another prisoner he had helped to freedom.

2. Joseph had a lot of reason's to have a Pity-Party.

B. THEN WE HAVE THE TEST OF SEXUAL TEMPTATION

1. Genesis 39:6-9

2. Vs 11-15

C. FINALLY - THE TEST OF GREED

1. The question would be - "How would Joseph use his power?"
 - a) To enrich himself?
 - b) Or to serve the people of Egypt?

2. **Very Important:** Passing the test of prosperity and power is often harder than passing the test of adversity.

CONCLUSION:

1. We should ask ourselves this question: "Is my life a pivotal life?"
 - a) All of our choices impact other people!!!! Think about that.

2. A few questions to ask ourselves:
 - a) Do you see evidence of God's providence in your life?
 - b) Have you asked God to make you spiritually prosperous?
 - c) Are you clean?
 - d) Are you faithful?

3. Are you ready to impact the world for Jesus?