

WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

"Maintaining Convictions"

Genesis 39:13-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. What we are experiencing in our culture is the "NEW MORALITY" and the reinterpretation of what's right and wrong.

2. **Situation Ethics** - says that sin depends on the situation.

a) In other words there are NO ABSOLUTES.

3. **Joseph Francis Fletcher** was an American Professor who founded the theory of **Situational Ethics**

Igniting a firestorm of controversy upon its publication in 1966, Joseph Fletcher's Situation Ethics was hailed by many as a much-needed reformation of morality--and as an invitation to anarchy by others. Proposing an ethic of loving concern, Fletcher suggests that certain acts--such as lying, premarital sex, adultery, or even murder--might be morally right, depending on the circumstances. Hotly debated on television, in magazines and newspapers, in churches, and in the classroom, Fletcher's provocative thesis remains a powerful force in contemporary discussions of morality.

4. In Vs 1-12 we saw that Joseph did not allow the situation he was in determine his morality.

5. He interpreted the situation *in the light of his morals*, instead of determining his morals by his situation.

6. Joseph according to Professor Fletcher and "Situational Ethics" would have been OK to "lay with Potiphar's wife".

7. Vs 11-12; 14-20

8. 1 Peter 2:20

9. Isaiah 55:8-9

a) Notice the Contrast:

1) "For my thoughts" - "are not your thoughts"

2) "your ways" - "are not my ways"

3) "for as the heavens are higher" - "than the earth"

4) "so are my ways higher" - "than your ways"

5) "and my thoughts" (higher) - "than your thoughts"

10. **THIS IS BIG!!!!** If you could look at your life....past, present and future through God's eyes!!!!!!!!!!!! **YOU WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING!!!!**

a) *Isaiah 55:8-9*

11. Vs 19-20, 21-23

12. *Psalms 105:18*

FOUR LESSONS WE NEED TO LEARN FROM THESE VERSES

I. SUCCESS IS CONNECTED TO CHARACTER

1. 39:1-2

a) *"Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt"*

b) *"and he became a successful man"*

2. One moment he was a slave in Potiphar's house, the next moment he's tossed into prison.

a) Joseph then prospers while in prison.

3. In God's eyes, prosperity is a function of character.

II. STABILITY IS KNOWING GOD IS IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE

1. Vs 2

a) *"The LORD was with Joseph"*

2. Vs 3

a) *"His master saw that the Lord was with him"*

3. Vs 5

a) *"The LORD blessed the Egyptian house"*

4. Vs 21

a) *"But the LORD was with Joseph"*

5. Vs 23

a) *"Because the LORD was with him"*

6. As believers we possess the Holy Spirit who resides with us and goes wherever we go.

a) The indwelling of the Spirit refers to the H.S. taking up permanent residence in the life of the Gospel believer.

1) *John 14:16-17*

2) *Roman's 8:9, 11*

3) *Titus 3:5-6*

III. SUFFERING STRENGTHENS US FOR THE FUTURE

1. All of our present situations prepare and strengthen us for future responsibilities.
2. Joseph was 17 years old when he dreamed of his future prominence and prosperity.
3. *1 Peter 5:10*

IV. SALVATION IS NOT ALWAYS IMMEDIATE

1. Joseph did nothing wrong in Canaan...yet he was thrown into the pit.
2. Joseph did nothing wrong in Egypt - yet he was thrown into Jail.
3. *Acts 16:25-34*

CONCLUSION:

1. Where do you stand in regard to morality?
 - a) Does it depend on the situation?