

Rise & Build:

Reflections from the Joseph Story

Conquering a Tainted Past

Genesis 45:5 “Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.”

One of the reoccurring thoughts running through the story of Joseph’s life is the troubled past that he had. He didn’t just put what happened to him out of his mind. Years later, he reminds his brothers about it. He

had not forgotten. However, he was not chained to that past, nor did he allow that past to ruin his future. This lesson takes a look at dealing with our past.

The Joseph Factor:

Joseph was generous, forgiving, kind and helpful to the very people that had hurt him. Joseph did this without:

- Hearing a Sunday sermon about forgiveness
- Reading an article in the church bulletin
- Having someone to encourage him to do right
- Having folks praying for him
- Receiving cards to support him
- Having godly examples around him

He did what he did on his own. We must realize what a blessing we have to do what is right.

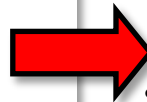
B. Two N.T. Reminders:

- “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk 9:62)

- “...but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead” (Phil 3:13)

We can just imagine the Regrets from:

- The rich man who ignored Lazarus (Lk 16)
- David for his sinful choices with Bathsheba
- Cain for killing Abel
- The prodigal for being so foolish
- Peter for denying the Lord



Regret, guilt and pain are often the memories we have of our past. These feelings can ruin our present day and even cripple our future.

- Often there is no going _____ and making things right
- Often the people who have hurt us, _____ to apologize

This past comes with _____ :

- _____ opportunities
- Making _____ choices
- _____ others

2. We all have been hurt by others

This past comes with the:

- The _____ of being disappointed
- The Desire to seek _____
- The Feeling of wanting _____ to do with them again

Genesis 45:1-11 Joseph’s Options:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He could _____ his brothers: sense of justice 2. He could _____ his brothers: make them feel what he felt 3. He could _____ the relationship: let them suffer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He revealed his _____ (45:3) 2. He acknowledged _____ workings (45:5,7,8,9) 3. He demonstrated his _____ (45:10, 11) 4. He showed the _____ way |
|--|---|

Conquering a Tainted Past

Our Mistakes:

1. Realize that God can and wants to _____ you (1 Jn 1:7,9; Ps 103:12; Isa 1:18; Micah 7:19b)
2. _____ from your failures and do better
3. _____ others so they don't make the mistakes you have
4. _____ yourself
5. Allow God to _____ you in His kingdom

Our Hurts:

1. There is no such thing as "_____"
2. Doing nothing never gives you _____ of mind.
The hurt from others can be like a toxin that poisons our heart with bitterness and fills our minds with anger and hatred (Eph 4:31)
3. You have an _____ to help others (Mt 18:15)
4. Remember God has forgiven you (Rom 5:8)
5. God wants you to forgive (Eph 4:32; Mt 6:12,14,15; Lk 17:3-4)
 - this is a _____ you make
 - this is an _____
 - this is an act of _____ (not fair, deserved or expected)

- Forgiveness does _____ remove consequences
- Forgiveness does not _____ everything

Nothing is more Christ like
than forgiveness
Nothing is more difficult
than forgiveness

- Forgiveness is not saying "It's alright." It is never right when someone has done wrong
- Forgiveness is not _____ a person
- Forgiveness is more than withholding _____
- Forgiveness is not the same as _____

- Forgiveness is to release what someone _____ you (Mt 18:23-27)
It is the release of your _____ towards them
It is the release of your _____ to hurt them for hurting you

- Love does not take into account a wrong suffered (1 Cor 13:5)
Without forgiveness, the _____ lingers
Without forgiveness, joy is _____
Without forgiveness, the future is _____
Without forgiveness, _____ cannot be regained
Without forgiveness the _____ cannot be repaired

6. Leave room for the _____ of God (Rom 12:17-19)

