

Joseph: Faith and fear in slavery, in prison, and in a position of power

Raise your hand if you were the favorite child or an only child in your family growing up.

- How many non-favorite children have at least 1 story of how your sibling got preferential treatment from your parents?
- Even if you were the favorite child in your family, everyone has encountered someone in their life that **can only be described as a spoiled brat.**

Video telling us Joseph's story

The Highlights from Joseph's story and going a little deeper:

1. Joseph's brothers were so upset at his dreams and his father's preferential treatment that they wanted to kill Joseph.
 - a. Let's not sit here and think that we could never do something like that. It is a very normal, human, and sinful response to want to get rid of something that bothers us or upsets us.
 - b. We only can deal with difficult people when we are in a right relationship with God and he gives us the patience and kindness we need
2. Joseph ends up in the house of Potiphar. **Genesis 39:2-5**
 - a. **Joseph's success as a leader and as a person was because of one thing, God's presence with him.**
 - b. We must also notice the giant leap that Joseph took from slave of Potiphar to his attendant.
 - c. **Genesis 39:20b-23:** How many of you right now, if you were in prison, would be thinking about how God was with you and blessing you?
 - i. Laura Story Song, Cora
 - ii. For us today, when trials are happening in our lives, let's not overlook the blessings that God may be trying to give to us even in the hard times.
3. One more aspect of Joseph's story really stuck out to me this week, and that is **the growth and maturity we see in Joseph throughout the story.**
 - a. In the beginning pride and vanity came from Joseph's dreams
 - b. But somewhere between slavery and prison Joseph matured and learned to respond with wisdom and humility.
 - i. Joseph gives God glory **Genesis 41:16**
 - ii. Joseph chooses humility **Genesis 41:33**

- c. Let us all do our best to be more like Jesus Christ, and like Joseph at the end of his story, and not look so much like the rest of the world.
4. Joseph's brothers show up in Egypt looking for food.
 - a. I'm sure that he was overwhelmed with emotion, blame, anger, heartache, and hope. How did Joseph respond though to his brothers? **Genesis 45:4-11**
 - b. It seems to me in that passage that Joseph had already **forgiven his brothers a long time before that moment.**
 - c. Small piece of advice for young adults: Don't do anything that will ruin your life and your future.
 - d. Far too often we listen to our sinful natures and crave vengeance. But if we look at Joseph's story, **what we should be craving is reconciliation and forgiveness.** Example of Jesus
 - e. Forgiveness isn't a warm fuzzy suggestion from God, it is a mandate. List of forgiveness passages: Col 3:13, Eph 4:32, Mark 11:25, 2 Cor 2:5-10, Luke 17:4, Luke 6:37.

Challenges:

1. Take a moment and try and quantify how close you are to God right now in your life.
 - a. Write something down and decide if you are close to God or if you want to be closer.
2. Take another moment this week and **assess your maturity both in person and on social media.**
 - a. This is not to bring about guilt or shame in your life but if you don't ever take time to be introspective, you will never know how you are doing in your journey to become more like Jesus Christ.
3. Write down the name of someone or a group of people that you have to forgive. _____
 - a. Once you write down the name, then comes **the hard part of actually forgiving them.**
 - b. You have to let go of the hurt that they caused you, not because they deserve it, but because of how much God has forgiven you through Jesus Christ.

Today ends our 6 week sermon series on faith and fear where we looked at 6 men of the book of Genesis and saw the faith they had and the fear that they faced. Joseph, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Noah, and Adam. Let's continue to choose faith, choose Christ, and help drive out the fear of this world with love.

Joseph: Faith and fear in slavery, in prison, and in a position of power

Raise your hand if you were the favorite child or an only child in your family growing up.

- How many non-favorite children have at least 1 story of how your sibling got preferential treatment from your parents?
- Even if you were the favorite child in your family, everyone has encountered someone in their life that can only be described as a _____.

Video telling us Joseph's story

The Highlights from Joseph's story and going a little deeper:

1. Joseph's brothers were so upset at his dreams and his father's preferential treatment that they wanted to kill Joseph.
 - a. Let's not sit here and think that we could never do something like that. It is a very normal, human, and sinful response to want to get rid of something that bothers us or upsets us.
 - b. We only can deal with difficult people when we are in a right relationship with God and he gives us the patience and kindness we need
2. Joseph ends up in the house of Potiphar. **Genesis 39:2-5**
 - a. Joseph's success as a leader and as a person was because of one thing, _____ with him.
 - b. We must also notice the giant leap that Joseph took from slave of Potiphar to his attendant.
 - c. **Genesis 39:20b-23**: How many of you right now, if you were in prison, would be thinking about how God was with you and blessing you?
 - i. Laura Story Song, Cora
 - ii. For us today, when trials are happening in our lives, let's not overlook the blessings that God may be trying to give to us even in the hard times.
3. One more aspect of Joseph's story really stuck out to me this week, and that is the _____ we see in Joseph throughout the story.
 - a. In the beginning pride and vanity came from Joseph's dreams
 - b. But somewhere between slavery and prison Joseph matured and learned to respond with wisdom and humility.
 - i. Joseph gives God glory **Genesis 41:16**
 - ii. Joseph chooses humility **Genesis 41:33**

- c. Let us all do our best to be more like Jesus Christ, and like Joseph at the end of his story, and not look so much like the rest of the world.
4. Joseph's brothers show up in Egypt looking for food.
 - a. I'm sure that he was overwhelmed with emotion, blame, anger, heartache, and hope. How did Joseph respond though to his brothers? **Genesis 45:4-11**
 - b. It seems to me in that passage that Joseph had already _____ his brothers a long time before that moment.
 - c. Small piece of advice for young adults: Don't do anything that will ruin your life and your future.
 - d. Far too often we listen to our sinful natures and crave vengeance. But if we look at Joseph's story, what we should be craving is _____ and forgiveness. Example of Jesus
 - e. Forgiveness isn't a warm fuzzy suggestion from God, it is a mandate. List of forgiveness passages: Col 3:13, Eph 4:32, Mark 11:25, 2 Cor 2:5-10, Luke 17:4, Luke 6:37.

Challenges:

1. Take a moment and try and quantify how close you are to God right now in your life.
 - a. Write something down and decide if you are close to God or if you want to be closer.
2. Take another moment this week and assess your maturity both in person and on _____.
 - a. This is not to bring about guilt or shame in your life but if you don't ever take time to be introspective, you will never know how you are doing in your journey to become more like Jesus Christ.
3. Write down the name of someone or a group of people that you have to forgive. _____.
 - a. Once you write down the name, then comes the hard part of actually _____.
 - b. You have to let go of the hurt that they caused you, not because they deserve it, but because of how much God has forgiven you through Jesus Christ.

Today ends our 6 week sermon series on _____ where we looked at 6 men of the book of Genesis and saw the faith they had and the fear that they faced. Joseph, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Noah, and Adam. Let's continue to choose faith, choose Christ, and help drive out the fear of this world with love.