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JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE TO US DEALING WITH LIFE'S CONFLICTS

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Genesis 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

Genesis 37:4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Genesis 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Genesis 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

Genesis 37:19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

Genesis 37:20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

Genesis 37:21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

Genesis 37:22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

Genesis 37:23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

Genesis 37:24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

Genesis 37:26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

Genesis 37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Genesis 37:28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Genesis 37:29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

Genesis 37:30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

Genesis 37:31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

Genesis 37:32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

Genesis 37:33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

Genesis 37:34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Genesis 37:35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

Genesis 37:36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

LESSONS FROM THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF JOSEPH JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE OF DEALING WITH LIFE'S CONFLICTS

I. IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH WE CAN SEE AN EXAMPLE OF DEALING WITH SIBLING CONFLICTS IN THIS LIFE.

INTRO: HERE WE HAVE A STORY ABOUT CONFLICTS THAT OCCUR WITHIN A FAMILY. WE SEE HOW CHILDREN OFTEN CAN BE CRUEL TO EACH OTHER.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CAUSES OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN SIBLINGS THAT ARE MANIFEST IN JACOBS FAMILY?

1. Sibling Rivalry.
2. ill feelings because multiple wives.
3. Sense of favoritism.
4. Envy, because of ones achievements.
5. Partners in Crime syndrome.

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HURT THAT IS EXPERIENCED IN FAMILIES BECAUSE OF ENVY AND STRIFE, ETC.

II. IN JOSEPH WE SEE AN EXAMPLE OF A PERSON WHO UNDERSTOOD WHO HE SHOULD SEEK TO PLEASE IN THIS LIFE.

JOSEPH IS AN EXAMPLE OF A PERSON WHO UNDERSTOOD WHO HE SHOULD SEEK TO PLEASE.

Truth is, that if we seek to please the Lord, often doing this will cause the displeasure of those around us.

1. Favor That Is Properly Earned Is Often Favor That is Envied.

Why is it that the world lauds favors people who do not deserve recognition and they are not envied for it, YET THE WORLD DOES NOT DESPISE THEM FOR THE UNDESERVED CREDIT GIVEN TO THEM?

MOVIE STARS: Often they are lauded for their beauty & looks.
Rarely do they deserve it.

CELEBRITIES, ETC. How many people of questionable character have been lauded and praised, yet they do not deserve the credit given to them!

So here are people who are born with a certain amount of natural beauty and attraction. And what have they done to deserve the credit for that?

If people would have ill feelings towards someone, it would be concerning this. But instead people often harbor ill feelings toward those who earn their favor and work for it.

2. Three Groups of people in this story:

A. There is Joseph, who sought to please his authority.

B. We can learn lessons from Joseph's brothers who sought to please each other and not their father.

C. There are those who sought to please both and ultimately pleased no one.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Joseph: Sought to please his father because that was the godly thing to do.

Honor Father & Mother is the 1st commandment with promise.

Parents are the God figure in the family.

Jesus came to earth seeking to please his Heavenly Father.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

III. IN JOSEPH WE SEE AN EXAMPLE OF A HOW TO DEAL WITH SUFFERING IN THIS LIFE.

In Joseph we see an example of a person who was not afraid to suffer to do right.

In Joseph we see an example of what a person often suffers for doing right.

II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

A godly person seeks the favor of his authority.

Those who are ungodly seek the favor of their peers.

Those who straddle the fence please no one. Illus. Reuben & Judah
Reuben tried to please both his Father and his brethren, and achieved nothing.

A. HE SUFFERED HATRED FROM HIS BROTHERS BECAUSE HE SOUGHT TO PLEASE HIS FATHER (they envied him).

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Today Joseph would have been called a brown noser.

In school, the kids who buttered up to the teacher was ridiculed by his fellow students. Yet who got the better grades?

Why do people harbor ill feelings towards those who try to please their authority?

I THINK IT IS BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

AND YET THEY DON'T DO IT!! WHEN THEY SEE SOMEONE DOING WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO, AND THEY THEMSELVES ARE NOT DOING IT, THEY HARBOR ILL FEELINGS TOWARD THE ONE WHO IS DOING RIGHT. THE REASON WHY IS BECAUSE THEY FEEL REBUKED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE PERSON WHO IS DOING RIGHT, WHEN IN FACT, THE PERSON WHO IS DOING RIGHT IS OBLIVIOUS TO THE FEELINGS OF ANIMOSITY BEING AIMED AT HIM!!!

Joseph had no clue that his brothers hated him or he would have feared to go seek them.

B. HE SUFFERED PERSECUTION FOR SHARING THE WORD OF GOD TO HIS FAMILY. Was his prophecy divine revelation?

Genesis 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Genesis 37:6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

Genesis 37:7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

Genesis 37:8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Genesis 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

Genesis 37:10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

Genesis 37:11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Genesis 37:12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

Why didn't keep his dream to himself?

THE REASON HE DIDN'T WAS BECAUSE HE WAS A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD.

Jeremiah couldn't keep quiet about what God told him either.

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Spirit of God works in us, to speak.

After I got saved, Lord changed my life and gave me something to say! There is no way I would ever become a preacher if it were not for God's spirit that works in me to will and to do His good pleasure.

C. HE SUFFERED RETALIATION BECAUSE OF HIS STANDARDS OF HOLINESS.
Potiphar's Wife:

Story of Joseph and his moral separation.

Genesis 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

Genesis 39:2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Genesis 39:3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Genesis 39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Genesis 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

Genesis 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

Genesis 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Genesis 39:8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

Genesis 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Genesis 39:10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

Genesis 39:11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

Genesis 39:12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

Genesis 39:13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

Genesis 39:14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

Genesis 39:15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

Genesis 39:16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

Genesis 39:17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

Genesis 39:18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

Genesis 39:19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

Genesis 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

Genesis 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

Genesis 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Interesting that in contrast to this story we read about Joseph's brothers.

Chapter 38:1-30 we read about Judah's immorality - he had immoral relations with quite a few women.

One of the confusing things about God's outworking and providence:

Here we have Joseph doing right and suffering for it, while his brothers are being immoral and everything seems to be going well with them!

Judah, story of his affair:

Genesis 38:1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

Genesis 38:2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.

Reuben had an adulterous affair with one of his father's concubines.

Genesis 35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah, his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

Application: How often it is that young people do right morally and feel that they suffer for it, while others seem to do wrong and get away with it, have their fun, etc.

A YOUNG LADY DECIDES TO KEEP HER PURITY AND CHASTITY, DOESN'T SEEM TO FIND THE ONE THAT SHE IS TO MARRY, EVEN WONDERS IF SHE WILL EVER GET MARRIED.

ANOTHER GIRL IS IMMORAL AND NOT DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT SHE SEEMS TO FIND SOMEONE TO MARRY QUICKER.

THIS IS A PATTERN OF LIFE. YOU NEVER RECEIVE THE REWARD RIGHT AWAY FOR DOING RIGHT.

YOU NEVER FEEL THE STING OF SIN RIGHT AWAY EITHER.

THE JUDGMENT OF SIN IS SLOW IN COMING.
THE REWARDS OF DOING RIGHT ARE ALSO SLOW IN COMING.

IN THE LONG RUN the rewards of doing right far outweigh the fun of doing what is wrong.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Note: Even with the incident with the Chief of the Butlers and the Chief of the Bakers:

The Chief of the Butlers forgot about Joseph even after the interpretation of the dream was favorable.

When you chose to do right you have to wait for the season of reward!!!

D. HE SUFFERED EMOTIONAL PAIN BECAUSE OF THE SCARS OF HIS BROTHERS REJECTION.

Genesis 42:24 ***And he turned himself about from them, and wept;*** and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

Genesis 43:30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

Genesis 43:31 And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

Genesis 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

Genesis 45:2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

Genesis 45:14 And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

Genesis 45:15 Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

Genesis 50:15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

Genesis 50:16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

Genesis 50:17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

Genesis 50:18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

Genesis 50:19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

IV. IN JOSEPH WE SEE AN EXAMPLE OF A PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING GOD'S HAND OF BLESSING ON HIM. IN OTHER WORDS, OTHERS COULD SEE HIS FAITH THROUGH THESE BLESSINGS!

What the world needs to see more than anything else is God's blessing in our lives.

This is the only thing the world understands.

God's blessing in our lives is equivalent to the miracles that Jesus performed.

Jesus often told the people that they should believe on Him because of the works or miracles He did.

1. HE WAS PREFERRED BY HIS FATHER. HE RECOGNIZED GOD'S BLESSING ON HIM.

No doubt Jacob recognized these blessings and this is probably why he was preferred.

WE NEED TO PRAY THAT GOD MAY BLESS US THAT OTHERS WOULD SEE AND FEAR AND BELIEVE IN OUR GOD!!!!

2. HE WAS PREFERRED BY HIS EMPLOYERS BECAUSE THEY PERCEIVED GOD'S BLESSING WAS ON HIM.

POTIPHAR & KEEPER OF THE PRISON, EVEN PHARAOH.

Genesis 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

Genesis 39:2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Genesis 39:3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Genesis 39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Genesis 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

Genesis 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

Genesis 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

3. HE WAS PREFERRED BY PHARAOH HIMSELF.

None else could interpret the dream that Pharaoh dreamed.

7 Kine - Cows.
7 Ears of Corn.

Genesis 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

Genesis 41:39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Genesis 41:40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Genesis 41:41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

Genesis 41:43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

V. JOSEPH WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A PERSON WHO UNDERSTOOD HOW GOD WAS PROVIDENTIALLY WORKING ALL THINGS FOR GOOD IN THIS PRESENT LIFE!

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Genesis 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

Genesis 45:2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

Genesis 45:3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

Genesis 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

Genesis 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

Genesis 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Genesis 45:8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Application:

In this life God is in control of all things.

**1. DO WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS IN OUR LIFE?
IS HE IN CONTROL?!!!**

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

This is a verse that should help us from becoming sour in this life.
Bitter over circumstances.

When things go wrong they may not be wrong but right in the will of God.

Job who was in control.

2. OFTEN OUR INTERPRETATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL AND PURPOSE!!!

How often this has happened?

Job's buddies thought for sure Job was suffering because he was harboring some secret sins.

How many times do we really think we know what God is doing?

We are all washed up out of line.

Completely off course.

I Corinthians 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

If we trust in the Lord we can know that God is working in our lives even through the difficult times.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

GEN 50:15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

GEN 50:16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

GEN 50:17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

GEN 50:18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

GEN 50:19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

GEN 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

GEN 50:21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

GEN 50:22 ¶ And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years.

GEN 50:23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.

GEN 50:24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

GEN 50:25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

GEN 50:26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.