



SERMON NOTES

BETTER than EVER

Week 2 (January 10):
"Responding
to a Crisis"
Genesis 37:26-27, 39:1-9, 20,
50:20

I. Introduction/Review

- A. If we are wise, we will pause long enough to ask the question, "What have we _____ that we want to carry forward?"
- B. Our superpower is our ability to choose a response rather than simply _____ to circumstances.
- C. The response that has the potential to _____ the natural course of things, isn't natural.

II. Responding to a Crisis – Lessons from the Life of Joseph

- A. God's intentions became _____ through one young man's unexpected responses to circumstances we cannot even begin to imagine.
- B. False assumption: When God is with you, things _____ out for you.
- C. Joseph responded as if God was with _____, when it looked as if God had abandoned him.
- D. Joseph begins to feel the way we do, when we've done everything _____ and nothing seems to work out right.

III. Application

- A. Reflection question: How would someone in your circumstances respond if they were _____ that God was with them?
- B. (Note: If you'll act on this question, you will emerge better for it and not bitter for it.)
- C. Joseph's story illustrates the fact that we can be better because of our _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

While we don't always choose our circumstances, we do have the ability to choose our responses. But the response that has the potential to reverse the natural course of things isn't natural at all.

Monday: Psalm 22

The Bible does not teach us that bad things will never happen to good people. All throughout scripture you see God's people going through difficult times. Today's text is just one of many psalms of lament. Did you grow up assuming if God was with you, things would go well for you? Or something similar?

Tuesday: I Samuel 24

Before becoming King, David spent many years running from King Saul who wanted to kill him. In our text today, David had an opportunity to kill Saul but he knew that was not the will of God. David's response in the midst of adversity shows us that our responses can make us better. Who do you respect most? Why? Does it have anything to do with their response to adversity? If so, what would their story be if they had reacted as expected?

Wednesday: Genesis 37:26-27, Genesis 39:1-6

- What stands out to you about this passage?
 - What circumstances happened to Joseph that were out of his control?
 - What are some of the natural responses Joseph could have had to those circumstances?
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Thursday: Genesis 39:6-20

- What stands out to you about this passage?
 - What circumstances happened to Joseph that were out of his control?
 - What are some of the natural responses Joseph could have had to those circumstances?
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Friday: Genesis 37:12-36

In spite of this tragic scene from today's text, Joseph responded as if God was with him, when it looked as if God had abandoned him. Is there anything you would do (or would have done) differently if you were confident God was with you? Is there an area where you are reacting as expected rather than exercising your "respond-ability"?

MOVING FORWARD

Never underestimate the power of a measured response. We have no idea what hangs in the balance of our decision to respond rather than react to events we did not choose. Our responses can make us better.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) learned, B) react, C) reverse. IIA) reality, B) work, C) him. IID) right. IIIA) confident, B) response.