

In the Beginning...

An Exploration of Genesis

SERMON NOTES

Week 5 May 12, 2024

“Joseph and His Brothers”

Genesis 37:26–27, 39:1–9, 20-21; 40:4, 8, 13–15, 19, 23; 41:14–16, 37–40, 42:1–2, 6–7; 45: 3–5; 50:18–20

I. Introduction

- 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. Joseph’s story illustrates the power of a _____ response.

II. From Bad to Worse

- A. False assumption: When God is with you, things _____ out for you.
- B. Joseph responded as if God was with _____, when it looked as if God had abandoned him.
- C. Joseph begins to feel the way we do, when we've done everything _____ and nothing seems to work out right.

III. From Prisoner to Prime Minister

- A. Joseph considered himself in some sort of _____ relationship with God.
- B. Even though God was with Joseph, he felt _____ with his circumstances.
- C. Pharaoh makes _____ the prime minister of Egypt.

IV. Application

- A. When we respond as if God is with us, we gain _____ that we can’t gain any other way.
- B. God's intention became a reality through one man's unprecedented circumstance defying _____.
- C. Our _____ is what determines whether or not we will be better for it.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *May 13-19, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

There is more to your circumstances than meets the eye. Your current circumstances are a chapter. They are not the full story. 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: 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"?

Tuesday: Genesis 40:1-23

Even though Joseph was walking with God, he was still frustrated with his circumstances and he had hoped that the butler would tell someone about him when he was released from prison. In the moment, Joseph could not have realized that this event in his life was part of a bigger story. Is it difficult to imagine the events of your life as part of a bigger story?

Wednesday: Genesis 41:14-49

Joseph proclaims to Pharaoh that he can't interpret His dream, but God can. Do you find it easy or hard to give God credit for your accomplishments?

Thursday: Genesis 45:3-5

Considering what Joseph had been through at the hands of his brothers, when he finally sees them, he responds in a totally unexpected way: he forgives them. Where are you reacting as expected rather than responding in a way that opens the door for an unexpected outcome?

Friday: Genesis 50:18-20

What stands out to you about this passage? Given all that Joseph had been through, how could he respond like that?

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. You have the power to respond rather than react. Use it. Our responses can make us better and the people around you will be better too.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) learned, B) react, C) measured; IIA) work, B) him.

IIIC) right. IIIA) covenant, B) frustrated, C) Joseph. IVA) perspective, B) responses, C) response.