

Joseph

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I. Introduction.

- A. Genesis 37.
- B. Title: the way up is down.
- C. All the evil that happened to Joseph God meant for good.

II. Parental home.

- A. Jacob loved his son Joseph.
- B. Jacob was given a special coat by his father and his brothers hated him for it.
- C. Joseph was trained well in the home

III. Pit.

- A. Joseph's brothers planned to kill him but Reuben was accountable so he intervened to keep Joseph from death.
- B. Judah also intervened in character to salvage his brother.
- C. Both Jesus and Joseph were sold for the price of a slave.
- D. Jacob deceived early in his life with the blood of a goat and later in life he was deceived concerning Joseph's death with the blood of a goat. There is cause and effect in life. (Genesis 27:9)
- E. Joseph was left in the wilderness. God finds us in the wilderness of our hearts. (Deuteronomy 2:10)
- F. The only thing that can really help us is Jesus bringing us out of the pit.

III. Potifer's.

- A. The Lord prospered Joseph and was with him through Potifer's discovery.
- B. Everything we do, we are to do for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 4:20-21, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Corinthians 10:31)
- C. Joseph was really serving God and not Potifer.
- D. Whatever you do is sacred if you are sacred to the Lord. Whatever is not of faith is sin. (Romans 14)

E. Joseph was a witness to Potifer.

F. Lust wars against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11, 2 Timothy 2:22, Proverbs 6:27)

IV. Prison.

A. Joseph for a moment did not think that salvation did not come from above.

B. We have often found ourselves thinking that we have been in enough training, but only God can tell when the training is complete.

C. God has each of us in a training program.

V. Pharaoh's.

A. Joseph bore two sons that represented his success before Pharaoh—God made him forget all his toil and made him fruitful.

B. God promotes us because of Jesus' righteousness and not because of our own.

C. We can be forgiven for our sin, but the effects of sin may still stay with us. (1 John 1:9, 1:7)

D. God can keep you as well as clean you - we need discipline and restraint in the Christian life.

E. Never doubt in the dark what God has revealed in the light.

F. The way up is down. You start at the bottom.

Application questions

1. What does it mean—the way up is down?

2. Was God's training program something that Joseph initiated or God? How do challenges shape the believer in discipleship?

3. Memorize Genesis 50:30 and write it below. What attitude are we to have when people practice evil against us? Explain.
