

The Shaping of a Man

January 25, 2006

“Remaining Faithful”

“Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any other of his children...his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers....Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt...the Lord was with Joseph and he became a successful man...and his master (Potiphar) saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.” Genesis 37:3-4; 39:1-4

SUMMARY:

We find the courage and personal strength to remain faithful to our beliefs because of positive mentoring relationships in our life. As a child, or as an adult, mentoring relationships are necessary to change our heart and mold our character into a vessel God can use. When (not ‘if’) you go through adversity, it is those times that we draw divine strength from God’s presence, power and the provision of godly, loving people who help us to endure.

NOTES:

- I. Joseph’s Family

- II. Joseph’s Focus

- III: Joseph speaks to us today

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Have you ever been through some adversity/trial in your life when you had an extremely difficult time “hanging-on” or being “faithful”? Share with one another.

- How important is the ‘love’ of our earthly fathers toward us?
- Joseph knew (and so did Potiphar) that the Lord was with him. Is it important for us to draw upon God’s presence and favor (power)? Tell of a time when you personally experienced God’s presence/power helping you in a tough situation.
- There is extreme value in mentoring relationships – people who literally “invest” or “pour” their lives into you. Share about someone who did that for you.
- Tell about an experience that you have had mentoring someone else and the benefits that you see in it.

APPLICATION:

Note the similarities of Joseph with Jesus Christ – both were misunderstood, both were rejected, both sold for money. Peter describes it this way. “This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps. He never sinned, and he never deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried away our sins in his own body on the cross so we can be dead to sin and alive for what is right. **“You have been healed by his wounds!”** (1 Peter 2:21-24 NLT)

ON YOUR OWN...

Genesis 37:1-4 & 39:1-4

1Peter 2:21-24

Isaiah 43:1-2

Romans 8:31-39

Good Book on Mentoring:

“As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship” by Howard and William Hendricks – Moody Press