

The Shaping of a Man "NO GUARANTEES"

April 26, 2006

"And he turned away from them and wept:...." Genesis 42:24

SUMMARY:

Joseph had many people disappoint him throughout his young life. People he should have been able to trust turned out to be unreliable. His brothers, Potiphar's wife, Potiphar and the Pharaoh's butler mistreated, lied about and abandoned Joseph over a period of 13 years. The only constant in Joseph's life was his confidence in God and God's faithfulness to him. It was proven to Joseph many times that there is no guarantee what people will do in a given situation. Although Joseph was very concerned about his brothers' spiritual welfare, there was no guarantee they would repent of their wrongs and turn to God. But, God and His promises are always true and reliable.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Questions: Do you believe Joseph was concerned about his brothers' spiritual condition? What proof do you have to back up your answer?

Questions:

- How did Joseph use each betrayal and disappointment in his life to prepare him for his ultimate rise to power and prestige?
- How have you used setbacks in your life to prepare you for service to God later in life?
- Do you believe wealth and prestige are a detriment or a help in serving God? Why?

APPLICATION:

Although this life offers few guarantees, we all have the guarantee of God's Word where we will spend eternity if we believe on the name of JESUS: I John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Have you personally make that life changing decision?
If not, why not?

ON YOUR OWN...

Genesis 43:30
Psalms 37:3-5
I John 5:13

Genesis 45:14
Psalms 37: 23 -24

We appreciate Jim Butcher preparing our lesson today.