

Oxford Baptist Church” – September 25, 2016

Pastor Robin W. Pifer

Series: The Story Message #3 “Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh.”

Readings - Genesis 37-50 The Story Chapter 3

Review....

Joseph: Living a Life of Spiritual Integrity through Brokenness

The Dreamer – Genesis 37:1-12

Joseph, age 17, was “the favorite” of his father Jacob.

Joseph had dreams of his brothers and parents bowing down to him.

Joseph’s brokenness tattle- tailing, insensitivity and arrogance.

Joseph takes God’s gifts and dreams and turn them into self-promotion. He needs to learn humility since he is enslaved personally.

- **God has a vision and purpose for everyone.**

The Dug-out – Genesis 37: 12-36

Joseph’s brothers are enslaved by jealousy.

Joseph’s brothers sell Joseph into slavery and tell Jacob that Joseph was killed by a ferocious animal. Evil actions never avoid accountability.

Jacob is broken by loss and makes Benjamin his favorite.

- **God uses difficulties or brokenness to develop our character.**
- **Death of a dream.**

Joseph choses God’s best over bitterness.

The Dungeon – Genesis 39, 40, 41

Joseph is sold as a slave to an Egyptian leader Potiphar. Potifer and Mrs. Potifer are broken by betrayal and sexual sin Mrs. Potifer tries to seduce Joseph and falsely accuses Joseph of assaulting her. While in prison Joseph gets a reputation for correctly interpreting dreams.

“**The LORD was with Joseph**” is a repeated refrain in Joseph’s story.

2.

- **God uses spiritual tests to strengthen our trust in him.**

Joseph choses the dungeon rather than be sidelined by sin.

“Self-inflicted treasured sin is willful ongoing disobedience.”

Endless self-pity because of the sin of others toward you leads you to the brokenness of bitterness and envy which hinders the grace, forgiveness and healing of the Lord.

The Dynasty – Genesis 41: 41- 57

The Brokenness of Pharaoh is fear and national collapse. Pharaoh has troubling dreams that none of his wise men and magicians can interpret for him. Joseph is called to Pharaoh and correctly interprets Pharaoh’s dreams and counsels Pharaoh to prepare for the fulfillment of his dreams.

Dream #1- Egypt will have 7 years of bountiful harvests.

Dream #2- Egypt will have 7 years of famine.

- **God is always preparing us for the next opportunity.**

Joseph makes the best of every opportunity.

The Destiny – Genesis 42- 50

Joseph sees the bigger picture of God’s grace. Genesis 50:19- 21

Joseph is reunited with and forgives his brothers. The family is relocated to Egypt. Jacob and Joseph’s lives are lived out there. The lineage is protected. Sixty-four years after Joseph dies Moses is born.

In God’s plan brokenness is the beginning of God’s greater plan. To let go of our idols. God’s redemptive plan happens through our brokenness.

- **God’s destiny for you is to impact future generations with his grace, forgiveness and blessing.**

What is your greatest take away from this message? What is the next step that the Lord wants you to act upon?



THE STORY

For Life Groups

CHAPTER 3: JOSEPH – FROM SLAVE TO DEPUTY PHARAOH

Joseph: Living a Life of Spiritual Integrity through Brokenness

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS: What time in your life have you seen God's hand of influence?

1. Jacob was very successful but he showed favoritism to his son Joseph. How does favoritism destroy unity in a family? What are some practical lessons families can learn from Joseph's story?
2. How can early success cloud our view of God's gifts or plan in our lives? Relate this to seventeen year old Joseph.
3. What were the character flaws or brokenness that came out in Joseph's early life? What came out in his brothers' lives?
4. It is said that the Lord was with Joseph. How did the Lord use Joseph's trust and integrity to bless him in the dungeon experience? How can your godly character impact your family or workplace?
5. List the injustices Joseph suffered. What sustained him? Have you ever suffered unjustly for doing the right thing? If so, what sustained you?
6. Twenty years after his brothers sold him into slavery, they came to Joseph to buy grain. Do you see evidence they had changed over the years? How did Joseph change? How did his brothers change?

7. How was it possible for Joseph to forgive his brothers? Why do you think he chose to do it the way he did? What is the evidence that the Lord has forgiven us?
8. Ponder the whole life story of Joseph. As a group, discuss the ways God's sovereignty came to light. How does God's sovereignty impact your personal faith in Him?
9. If you could ask God any question about Joseph's story what would it be? If you could ask Joseph any question about his life and times what would it be?
10. Is there anything you're struggling with that is testing your faith in God's sovereignty? If comfortable, share with your group how they can pray for you in this area.

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journey this week through The Story Chapter 3. How has God's story impacted your story?

Personal Notes and Reflection