

SOME THINGS I'VE LEARNED ABOUT GOD FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis ch. 37-50

by Bob Cull

ROMANS 15:4

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through ENDURANCE (hanging-in-there under pressure) and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have HOPE." (the confident expectation of future good.)

- 1.) **Just because circumstances don't look like a plan, it doesn't mean that God doesn't have one.**
*remember Romans 8:28 - "...all things are working together for the good of those who love God & are called according to His purpose."
- 2.) **God doesn't always explain the plan to us--even when we're in it.**
*Joseph didn't have a clue until the end of the story.
- 3.) **When bad things happen, God is still in control.**
*every step of the way, Joseph ended up exactly where God needed him to be.
- 4.) **It is possible to be exactly where God wants you to be, even when you are there because of other peoples' choices--(even when those choices were made for the wrong reasons!)**
*Joseph had no say in any of the things that affected his life, yet despite out-of-control people governing him, he was right in God's plan the whole time.
*remember at the end he said: "you intended it for evil, but God meant it for good."
- 5.) **Sometimes God blesses (or teaches) other people at our expense.**
*that is because sometimes the plan is bigger than just our own lives & comfort.
- 6.) **Sometimes the BEST answer to our prayers is "no" or "not now", even when we are uncomfortable or trapped.**
*If God had let Joseph out of prison when Joseph wanted it, two nations would've starved to death!
- 7.) **God will be with us NO MATTER WHAT!**
*It's true that God could've delivered Joseph at any time, but He never left him alone.
- 8.) **Doing the right things doesn't always guarantee a smooth life.**
*Even when the ultimate result of the plan is good.
(read Psalm 37 and Psalm 73)
- 9.) **GOD IS NOT IN A HURRY (and we are)**
*Joseph waited 20 years to do one thing
(read Proverbs 3:5....it implies that God is going to do things that we won't understand.)
- 10.) **The end of His plan is ALWAYS worth the trouble and the wait.**
- 11.) **God is able to bless us in such a way as to cause us to forget the pain.**
*Joseph named his first son "Menasseh", which means 'forget', he said: "because God has caused me to forget my suffering in the land of my affliction."
- 12.) **One day can change EVERYTHING.**
*And the day before that day, it looks like nothing will ever change!
----Don't ever judge the future based on what you can see now.