**YOUR FAMILY DOES MATTER**

How God Builds Character - The Life of Joseph Part 1

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**Romans 15:4 (NIV) – Memory Verse**

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**WHY STUDY JOSEPH**

The biography of Joseph is nothing short of remarkable, occupying as much or more space in Genesis than the biographies of Adam, Noah, Abraham, or even Joseph's father, Jacob. Joseph emerges from the pages of Scripture as a man with whom most of us can identify. His story begins at age 17 and end at age 110 (Genesis 50:26). Over his long life, Joseph responded to broken dreams and impossible circumstances with a faith that propelled him from the pit of slavery to the pinnacle of power.

**JOSEPH'S LIFE**

* **He Came From A Dysfunctional Family**
* **He Made Foolish Mistakes**
* **He Suffered Unjustly**

Joseph did not take the initiative for the overall responsibility of his family or for conveying his love--except to Rachel, Joseph and later Benjamin. And it cost him and his family dearly. However, we can glean from Joseph's experience four real lessons that can be just as important for us today as they were for Joseph.

**FOUR LESSONS TO LEARN**

1. **No Family Is Exempt From Adversity**

**Psalm 46:1 (NIV)**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

2. **No Enemy Is More Subtle Than “To Do Nothing”**

We've got to realize that giving in to the subtle urge to avoid issues now only creates problems in the future.

3. **No Response Is More Cruel Than Jealousy**

**Song of Songs 8:6 (KJV)**
...for love *is* strong as death; **jealousy *is* cruel as the grave: the coals thereof *are* coals of fire, *which hath a* most vehement flame.**

If you let the seed of jealousy take root, it will destroy the family's unity and harmony.

4. **No Condition Is More Unfair Than Unjust Condemnation**

No one in Joseph's family knew where he ended up.

 But God knew where he was.

And no amount of unfair circumstances could thwart His plan for Joseph.

**Remember: God is more interested in your character**

**than your comfort.**