

Life Lessons - Joseph

Genesis 37 - 8/28/16

***Romans 15:4**

***Genesis 37:1-4**

We are to cultivate a work ethic early in life.

Some of us need to be kick-started; this is where parents come in!

We need to set the example. We need to challenge them while they're young (and increasingly all the more in every season of life), to understand that hard work is God's will.

We must also understand that hard work is never an excuse to be a work-a-holic, or to neglect our other responsibilities.

***Genesis 37:2c** And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father.

A tattletale is one who delights in another's discipline.

***Proverbs 24:17+18**

***Proverbs 6:12-15**

We need to make a distinction between tattletales, and the desire to seek justice; as the one takes pleasure in seeing others punished, while the others motivation is to expose an unjust situation so that justice will prevail.

We shouldn't compare what Joseph (as the possible immature 'favorite son') did here, with what at times may need to be done so that there's justice and equity in the land. We simply need to prayerfully check our hearts to know the difference and follow through.

***Genesis 37:3+4**

Not only is loving one child more than another terribly wrong... But it can obviously cause major issues in family dynamics and relationships.

Moms and dads, as sibling rivalry is already natural, let's be sure that we're not the root cause of any such issues. May God help us to love our kids well and equally so that we're not causing jealousy, strife, or even hatred.

***Genesis 37:5-11**

This was a profound dream (a revelation) that Joseph felt compelled to share. He had a conviction to proclaim what he had experienced as God would actually bring all of this to fruition for an extraordinary cause.

The manifold grace of God would ultimately use all of this in the end for His purposes - in order to bless many, especially His chosen people. We need to always be reminded that we're only seeing and understanding our life experiences in chapters... While God sees and knows all of it, from beginning to end.

***Genesis 37:18-28**

God was with Joseph just as much in the pit, as He was in the palace.

Oftentimes we mistakenly think that God has abandoned us in the pits of life... When the truth of the matter is that He's all the more with us in the pits.

***Psalm 34:18 *2 Corinthians 12:9**