

The Life of Joseph

Week #5: *Activating a Seared Conscience*

July 9, 2023

The Bible doesn't just talk about truth, but demonstrates what happens in the lives of people when God's truths and instructions are either followed or rejected.

Joseph, a real person found in the pages of Genesis, is an individual who embodies some of the most significant truths in the Bible. In a life filled with everything from false accusations and mistreatment to arriving at the pinnacle of wealth and power, Joseph exemplifies forgiveness, freedom from bitterness, faith & a positive attitude – all the unexpected results of God's truths being put into action. Most important, Joseph is someone who learns and holds to Rule #1, "God's in charge". When we follow this rule, letting Him lead in our relationships, life goes better.

Questions: Week #5 – Unchaining Ourselves, Part #1: The Essential Ingredients.

Read Genesis 42

1. It's now been over 20 years since Joseph & his brothers last communicated, and the brothers have been living with their sin for two decades. How has this affected them?
 - What has family dysfunction & sin wrought upon your relationships?
2. In verses 21-22, what are the brothers experiencing: repentance? sorrow? guilt? What are they experiencing in verses 27-28?
3. When you are wronged, are you most likely to seek revenge or reconciliation?
 - What is the difference between them:
 - o in terms of consequences?
 - o in terms of relationship?
4. Read James 1:19-21; Colossians 3:12-17; Ephesians 4:1-6
 - Why is God so insistent that we forgive others when they wrong us, and seek forgiveness when we hurt others?
 - How can you demonstrate reconciliation & forgiveness within your Goodtree congregation and throughout Calgary?
5. Read Mark 12:28-34. Why did Jesus say there are no commandments greater than these?
 - What would happen if the people of Calgary decided to obey these commandments for one year?
6. Reflect for a few minutes on the following:
 - Am I holding someone captive because I'm treating them as a problem rather than a person that I share an issue with? Why am I treating them as a problem, not a person?
 - What are the events & circumstances that have led to our conflict? What is my role in the issue? Where are we stuck?
 - How are these unresolved issues affecting my physical health? my emotional health? my spiritual life?
 - Read 1 John 4:7-21. Make it your goal to live the truth of these words each day before God and others. Practice the love of the Father, understanding that in this love there is no fear or punishment, but rather wholeness and perfection. Begin this way by praying each day for those you have issues with, asking God to show you how to use the character he is forming in you to confront and overcome the issues you share.