

The Life of Joseph.

Week #4: *Character*

July 2, 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 #4 - Character: Who you are when no one's looking.

1. Reflect on the people and events in your life that have formed your character. How have they made you the person you are today?

2. Read Romans 5:3-5. There are several words that we find in sequence that should be studied these verses:

- Suffering: What does it mean to suffer?
- Perseverance implies that suffering is not something that should cause us to "give up".
 - o What has perseverance taught you?
 - o Where is God encouraging you to persevere today?
- Character: Suffering & perseverance are what God uses to refine us and build character.
 - o Make a list of 5 godly characters within you that God has refined through suffering & perseverance.
- Hope. Is it possible to possess hope without persevering through hardship, and being tempered & refined?
 - o What does "spiritual toughness" look like? Who are examples in your life of such people? What have they faced to become people of character?

3. Read Genesis 41:1 & 46. Joseph spent 13 years learning the truth of Romans 5:3-5.

- How long has God been refining you for the plans He has? Can you see how His refining has provided you opportunity to play your role in His story?
 - o Could it be that you still find yourself in the preparation stage for God's greatest work in you?
- Joseph's time of preparation was not without good moments. What have been (still are) some of those moments in your life?

4. Read 2 Peter 1:3-8. Pay attention to verses 3-4.

- Make a list of God's promises (there are almost 7,500 of them in the Bible, so you should be able to find a few!).
 - o How are these promises sustaining you, providing everything you need to live a holy life, and freeing you from the corruption in the world caused by evil desires?
 - o Close in prayer, thanking God for His great promises, His faithfulness, & His good plans for your life. Our God is truly a good Father!