

The Life of Joseph: Week 2 - Chapter One: Bad Brothers

Part 1: Jacob & His Brother

One day Jacob's brother came home from hunting and was very hungry. Rather than freely offering a bowl of food, Jacob used the situation to advance his personal position by _____ his brother's _____.

Jacob was his mother's _____ son, and she helped him deceive Isaac into giving him the blessing of the _____, again placing his wellbeing ahead of his brother, Esau.

Jacob used his brother's clothing and the hairy skins of a goat in order to _____ his father into giving him the firstborn blessing, belonging to his brother. As a result, Esau hated Jacob and planned to kill him. Jacob fled from his home and took shelter far away at his Uncle's household.

On his journey, at Bethel, Jacob had a _____. Within this vision, God passed down his covenant promises to Abraham & Isaac, onto Jacob.

Part 2: Jacob & His Uncle

Upon his arrival, Jacob agrees to work for 7 years for his Uncle, in order to marry the wife of his choice, Rachel, the younger daughter. After the 7 initial years of work, his uncle seizes an opportunity for more labor and deceives Jacob into marrying the older daughter, Leah, whom he has no interest in. It is as though because, through _____, Jacob _____ his older brother for personal gain...his uncle is now, through deceit, is forcing Jacob to honor his eldest daughter for his own personal gain.

Jacob is able to marry Rachel a week later, in exchange for another 7 years of work. The price of the bowl of stew continues to rise for Jacob. During this time, a major rivalry begins between the sisters, as they battle for Jacob's attention and affection...To complicate matters even more, Jacob is also given the sister's maidservants as his wives as well. The difficulties of this greatly resembles those of premarital sex, divorce and broken families.

Part 3: Jacob & His Sons

All in all, Jacob will have 12 sons and 1 daughter with these 4 women. At the end of the 14 years, God gives Jacob another dream and tells him to return to Canaan.

On his journey back, without _____ the Lord, he set up _____ & bought land near the Canaanite city of Shechem...in similar fashion to Lot setting up camp near the godless city of Sodom.

While near Shechem, Jacob's daughter, went into the city to visit the women there...during this time she is raped by the prince of the city. Jacob hears about it, does nothing and allows Dinah to be taken in marriage. As a result of this, 2 of the brothers took justice into their own hands by killing every male in the city and the others took all the women, children & belongings (including their idols) for themselves. After this event, God speaks to Jacob at Shechem and tells him to return to Bethel and to purge the camp of the foreign gods. God then protects Jacob from the people/cities.

Jacob eventually returns all the way back to the home of his father Isaac. However, on the journey, two major events occur..

*First, Jacob's favorite wife Rachel, dies while giving birth to Benjamin, her 2nd son and Jacob's 12th.
Second, Jacob's eldest son Rueben has sexual relations with his fourth wife, Rachel's servant, Bilhah.*

Chapter One: Life Lessons

#1 The story of our children & grandchildren _____ long _____ any of them are born. Their story begins with you and I, our spouses, our siblings and our choices now.

#2 We must _____ those in need, rather than manipulating others by taking advantage of them in their desperation, in order to advance ourselves.

#3 We must not disregard spiritual things, we should hold them _____ in our hearts.

#4 We should not have a temporary, _____ and now mindset, but a long-term, eternal one.

#5 We must not play favorites with our children or grandchildren. We must not influence our children against our spouse or their siblings.

#6 We must realize that if we have to use _____ in order to get something for ourselves...The thing we are striving for is not worth it and will likely harm us.

#7 We must realize that if we have to _____ a family member in order to get something for ourselves...The thing we are striving for is not worth it.

#8 We must realize that the _____ we make now are seeds which are sown which can and will come back to either bless us or haunt us. (Gal 6:7-8)

#9 We must realize that even though God loves us & wants to use us in a great way, many times he will not protect us from the _____ of our sinful decisions.

#10 We must realize that to some extent, God will allow us to be treated in the same manner in which we have treated others. (Matt 7:2)

#11 We must realize that there is a reason that God tells us to be the 'husband of one wife' and to obtain from sexual immorality...to be spared the pain of the consequences.

#12 We must realize the importance of _____ with the Lord and other wise believers before (all) major life changes or _____.

#13 We must realize that there is a reason that God tells us to 'not associate with' or pitch our tents near or intermarry with those who are sexually immoral, greedy and an idolater... (1 Cor 5:11) ...chances are we will become like them or be harmed in the process...or take their gods for ourselves.

#14 We must not take justice (vengeance) into our own hands...but instead we should wait on the Lord and His perfect justice. (Rom 12:19)

#15 Following God's plan for our lives doesn't _____ us from experiencing loss/tragedy.

#16 If we happen to come from a 'bad family' we must realize that we are not alone, and this is a _____ of human nature.

#17 We must realize that the _____ of our fathers, our mothers, or brothers etc. doesn't determine the trajectory of our lives.

#18 We must realize that a bad start in life doesn't guarantee a bad ending.

#19 We must realize that an evil start in life doesn't guarantee an evil ending. While you have life and breath you can still repent.

#20 We must realize that even though the decisions of others do greatly affect us, they don't have to _____ our worldview, our attitude, our choices or our _____!