

## The Life of Joseph: Week 3 - Chapter Two: Favorite Son

### Part 1: Jacob: A Progression of His Past

**Gen 25:27-28** First, Jacob was raised primarily by his mother as his father \_\_\_\_\_ his brother. Jacob was not 'outdoorsy' like his brother and was happy to stay close to home.

**As a result...** Jacob will struggle to know how to father well, because he was not \_\_\_\_\_ well. Jacob will \_\_\_\_\_ to connect with his 10 outdoorsy, aggressive & manly sons...who are reminiscent of Esau. He will more readily connect with his well-behaved son. Jacob will prefer the son of his \_\_\_\_\_ wife and encourage him to stay near home.

**Gen 29:20, 23, 25** Second, Jacob was tricked into marrying a woman he did not love on the night that he thought that he was marrying the woman that he did love.

**As a result...** Jacob will carry \_\_\_\_\_ for the 10 boys not born to his desired wife. They are a constant reminder of that terrible trick. Jacob will be \_\_\_\_\_ from the wellbeing of other children. Jacob will begin to \_\_\_\_\_ them for everything wrong in his life.

**Gen 35: 16-17, 19** Third, the wife that Jacob loved, \_\_\_\_\_ while giving \_\_\_\_\_ to her 2nd son...leaving Jacob with 10 sons and 3 wives that he did not truly love.

**As a result...** Jacob will openly favor the two sons that he had with Rachel. They are a constant \_\_\_\_\_ of the great love he had for her. Jacob is left to \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph & Benjamin without their mother. (His mother raised him) Jacob will \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph to be the heir of the family estate. (As his mother had done)

### Part 2: The Brothers: A Product of their Pain.

**Gen 33:1-2** First, when Esau had finally caught up with Jacob...Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ the entire family in front, in order to \_\_\_\_\_ himself, Rachel & Joseph.

**As a result...** Leah, the other wives and brothers get the clear message that Jacob does not value them nearly as much as Rachel & Joseph. They are utterly expendable to him.

**Gen 34:1-2, 5, 7, 30-31** Second, after their sister is raped, Jacob does nothing. When the brothers avenge her abuse, Jacob scolds them for the target they placed on his back.

**As a result...** They understand that they must take family matters into their own hands...Jacob will not \_\_\_\_\_ them...nor \_\_\_\_\_ them when they cause trouble.

**Gen 37:2, 12-14** Third, the 10 brothers have been assigned the task of \_\_\_\_\_ for the family while Joseph mainly remains at home. To make matters worse, Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ young Joseph in a supervisory role as foreman over them.

**As a result...** The brothers \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph and he becomes a constant reminder to them that their mother is not loved, they are not loved and that they are not the heir apparent...

**The singular decision to sell Joseph will be the product of decades of unchecked jealousy, anger, bitterness & resentment...on the part of both the brothers and Jacob!**

### Part 3: Joseph: A Projection of their Problems

As this jealousy, bitterness & resentment is festering...Jacob decides to make Joseph an ornate robe.

For Jacob: The robe \_\_\_\_\_ the height of his joy, the pride of his life, the one thing he got right and the only thing which truly makes him happy...and he places it on Joseph.

For the Brothers: The robe \_\_\_\_\_ the height of their pain & their father's rejection...They are not loved, they are workers not future heirs.

**Gen 37:3** The robe was an ornate tunic, of a variety of colors with long sleeves reaching the hand and a long base reaching the ankles.

**The significance of the robe was threefold... It symbolized that...**

-Joseph was in 1st \_\_\_\_\_ in the heart of Jacob.

-Joseph was being \_\_\_\_\_ to be the heir of the family.

-Joseph was being put in a supervisory \_\_\_\_\_ over the work of the brothers.

**Long-sleeves, long-length robes were a specific symbol of status...that is, you cannot work in the fields with sleeves to your wrists or a robe to your ankles. Joseph was being told by his father that he would not have to worry about working hard during his life.**

This creates a pivotal \_\_\_\_\_ within the character of Joseph, beyond pride: Joseph is not a worker and does not know how to work hard.

**If Joseph is meant to save the world from the coming years of famine, he will need to work very, very hard...not only during the 7 years of plenty, but also the 7 years of famine.**

Through the upcoming events, God will begin to \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph for the role of Prime Minister of Egypt and the role of overseeing the major country-wide projects.

### Chapter Two: Life Lessons

#1 We must be very mindful of the \_\_\_\_\_ that our heredity, our upbringing and our family history & past experiences have over us.

#2 Those of us who are fathers, must realize the importance of fatherhood...The importance of valuing, \_\_\_\_\_ and disciplining and the detriment of being passive or absent.

#3 We must realize that as \_\_\_\_\_, we have a major influence on the course of action that our children eventually take. Yes, they make their own choices, but those are heavily influenced by us.

#4 We must realize that unchecked inner emotions such as bitterness, anger, resentment etc. will come to the \_\_\_\_\_ in the form of outward action at some point.

#5 Our past, our family history, our painful experiences & our expectations combined with the powerful emotions of anger, jealousy & lust etc. can & will set a dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ where serious \_\_\_\_\_ can occur. We must be ever aware of the many 'forces' which are influencing our lives...and we must find ways to rise above the fray and break the cycles of sin in our life...as Joseph will.