**The Life of Joseph - When Life Loses Its Colour**

**When Life Gets Bitter, Get Better – Part 2**

August 1, 2021

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**Sermon Description**

Why does everything that is good for you taste bad?

Get that nasty taste out of your mouth!

Unforgiveness, bitterness and hatred can leave such a nasty taste in our mouth. Joseph had to overcome all these things to fulfil his destiny. Joseph refused to live life with a bitter taste in his mouth but rather to stay sweet in the sour.

* Forgiveness
* Bitterness.

**Central Truth**

Your ability to forgive is directly connected to your future.

**God's Good Purposes**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." 16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, **forgive** the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**The Death of Joseph**

**Genesis 50:22-26**

22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. 23 Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. 24 **And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."** 25 **Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."** 26 So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

**Main Thoughts**

**As a type of Christ, Joseph demonstrated an incredible ability to forgive his brothers of what they had done to him. Our future is directly connected to our ability to forgive.**

1. **Forgiveness is a staple of Christianity and a sign of spiritual maturity**

* 1. Unforgiveness will strip colour from your life
  2. Jesus taught us to pray the following: forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us
* Forgiveness is granted to us based on our willingness to provide it to others
* Jesus said if we do not forgive, we will be turned over to the tormenters
* Unforgiveness is toxicity within your system and ultimately will kill you.

1. **Your ability to forgive others has a direct impact on your future** 
   1. Your future promotions are directly related to your ability to forgive others
   2. Forgiveness is directly connected to your future and authority
   3. Ensures the prophetic promises all came to pass
   4. Your future is about three things - direction, correction, and perfection

* Direction – God guiding
* Correction – God correcting
* Perfection – God maturing us.

1. **God’s kindness leads us to repentance**
   1. Despite all that his brothers had done to him, God has done an incredible work within the heart and life of Joseph. Long before they arrived God had healed and restored his life.
   2. Joseph demonstrates the spirit of meekness

* This is meekness - power under control
* When we have truly forgiven and repented, we will bear an incredible fruit
  1. Joseph’s brothers projected their behaviour and their heart on Joseph, that is why they said, “He will hate us now that our father is dead”. In other words, what they were now saying, “Now we will see the real Joseph”.

1. **Stop trying to play God in people’s lives** 
   1. Joseph understood that only God has the power to judge and that it was not his place to judge his brothers
   2. Joseph had clearly forgiven his brothers even before they arrived, we know this because of what he named his children
   3. Joseph was not willing to confuse his spiritual authority for his natural authority. He understood his authority and he did not overstep his spiritual authority

* He recognized the power that belongs to God
* He recognized the incredible plan that God had for him.

**Group Questions & Discussion**

1. Describe a time when life caused you to become bitter. How did you overcome it?
2. Do you believe the principle: “Your ability to forgive is directly related to your future”? How and why does this work?
3. How has forgiveness played a key role in your spiritual development?
4. Have you ever tried to play God in someone’s life? How so?
5. How does God’s kindness lead us to repentance?
6. How was Joseph able to forgive his brothers of so much evil? List three ways.
7. How is Joseph a type of Christ?