

MESSAGE NOTES
THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
“WORST CASE SCENARIO”

MURPHY’S LAW: “If anything can go wrong, it will”

[Joseph to his brothers] *“This is how I will find out if you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take grain for your starving families and go on home. But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know you are honest men and not spies. Then I will give you back your brother, and you may trade freely in the land.”* GEN 42:33-34

There are times when _____ seems to be against us

[Jacob] *“You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. Everything is going against me!”* GEN 42:36

- Joseph is sold into slavery
- Joseph is falsely accused
- Joseph is imprisoned
- Joseph is forgotten

“‘Everything is meaningless,’ says the Teacher, ‘completely meaningless!’” ECCL 1:2

QUESTION: Who was Jacob really angry at?

There are times when _____ is the worst action

[Jacob] *“My son will not go down with you. His brother Joseph is dead, and he is all I have left. If anything should happen to him on your journey, you would send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave.”* GEN 42:38

“‘Why were you so cruel to me?’ Jacob moaned. ‘Why did you tell him you had another brother?’” GEN 43:6

- We blame others for our problems
- We think waiting will solve our problems
- Sometimes we run out of time

OBSERVATION: When we get to this state, we prolong pain

Jacob discovered the _____ that change happens when the pain of the same is greater than the pain of the change

“But the famine continued to ravage the land of Canaan. When the grain they had brought from Egypt was almost gone, Jacob said to his sons, ‘Go back and buy us a little more food.’” GEN 43:1-2

Jacob needed to _____ trust in God’s providential care

- Jacob was governed by fear
- Jacob had a negative pessimistic attitude
- Jacob was self-centered
- Jacob played the “blame game”
- Jacob refused to admit he was wrong
- Jacob reluctantly yielded because he had to
- Jacob was blind to God’s sovereignty
- Jacob never seeks God’s wisdom

OBSERVATION: When our faithfulness wanes, it’s hard for us to see and experience God’s fruitfulness

God was using _____ to wrestle Jacob back into submission (relationship)

[Jacob] *“May God Almighty [“El Shaddai”] give you mercy as you go before the man, so that he will release Simeon and let Benjamin return. But if I must lose my children, so be it.”* GEN 43:14

God’s Promise to Jacob... *“I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you.”* GEN 28:15

God’s Promise to Us... *“Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* MATT 28:20

QUESTION: Where are the circumstances of your life taking you right now?