

Remnant Life Church  
November 24, 2019  
*Lessons Learned Away From Home*  
Gen 39:1-10

Recap of the time in MS

- Meeting and getting to know Clayton
- Generosity and hospitality
- A different way of life
  - They are the “real south”
  - Not North or South Carolina!
  - BBQ alligator tail and raccoon stew
  - Slower pace (green lights suggest you get ready to put your car in motion again)
- Also very similar
  - They love Jesus with all their hearts
  - They love to worship
  - They know their need for Him and His presence in their lives – hungry to receive God’s Word

A time away from the familiar provides opportunities that you would not get in your normal routine

- It is the chance to do some things differently
- The chance to try some things since you are in a new environment
- An opportunity to get out of your comfort zone (para-sailing in Mexico)
- On the reverse side, it is often a time people do things they should not do!

While we were away, I wanted God to teach me some lessons

I was there to teach, but I was also there to learn

- I have been thinking about this since we’ve been home
- Reflecting on time with family, new-found friends, and in a house of the Lord that is not familiar to me

I also began to think, who in the Bible is someone who had to spend time away from home?

- Who was it that could have gone either way with how he acted and lived?
- And who was it that shown brightly for God during a time that was mostly very unpleasant?
- Joseph!

**READ** - [Gen 39:1-10](#)

Lesson #1 – Refuse to Compromise

1. Joseph was in a land where no one knew him
2. He was accountable to only one person – Potiphar
  - a. Potiphar was the captain of the palace guard

- b. He would have had as much direct access to Pharaoh as anyone
  - c. Potiphar's wife (no name given which emphasizes her depraved nature) tries to seduce Joseph
  - d. When he refuses she lies and falsely accuses him
  - e. Potiphar has him jailed instead of executed, demonstrating his probable disbelief in his wife's story.
  - f. Joseph simply refused to give in (compromise)
3. Compromise presents itself in many forms
- a. It can be your actions
  - b. It can be your attitude
  - c. It can be the way you speak to people
  - d. Compromise means I abandon the things I know to be true or right for the purpose of my own gain or satisfaction
4. Joseph remained faithful to his commitment to, not only Potiphar but more importantly, to God
- READ – 39:8-9**
- a. Joseph understood something people seem to quickly dismiss or conveniently forget: God knows our thoughts and our actions
  - b. Should that not be something that directs how we live and act?
  - c. But, as a Christian, our desire to live right should not be motivated from a fear of being seen or caught
  - d. Character is how you behave when no one else will ever know
5. What was the result?
- a. God continued to promote Joseph
  - b. God knows the circumstances, knows how you are responding, knows your heart

Lesson #2 – Whether things get better or worse, remain faithful

1. In Joseph's case, it was as bad as it could get
  - a. Prisoner's in that day simply ceased to exist – their lives no longer belonged to them
  - b. Life was not guaranteed, and the conditions were sub-human
  - c. If you think about it in those terms, would you not think that Joseph have had every RIGHT to behave any way he wanted?!
  - d. Part of our problem today is that we all now think we have rights that guarantee we can behave, speak, and treat others in whatever way we please – it's our right!
    - i. That is a worldly, God-less belief
    - ii. As a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, with a life surrendered to God, we have willingly given up our rights
    - iii. *Acts 20:24 - I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*
2. Joseph, however, remained faithful
3. Others
  - a. When Noah was in the ark for over a year with no land in sight
  - b. When Moses was facing the Red Sea with the Egyptians bearing down on him

- c. When young David was face-to-face with Goliath
  - d. When Jesus was carrying his cross to the hill at Golgatha
4. What was the result?
- READ – 39:20-22**
- a. Remaining faithful does not mean the circumstances are going to change immediately
    - i. **Gen 41:1** – *After 2 full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream...*
    - ii. That does not include the time Joseph was in the prison before he interpreted the dreams of the baker and the cupbearer
  - b. Remaining faithful means waiting on and trusting in God's timing

Lesson #3 – Seek out the good and the blessings of God in every situation

1. Joseph's story continues while he is still in prison
  - a. Interprets the dreams of the baker and the cupbearer in prison (40:1-23)
  - b. Because of that he is called to interpret 2 dreams that Pharaoh had (41:1-32)
    - i. They predicted the coming 7 years of plenty and the 7 years of famine (41:26-27)
    - ii. Joseph's wisdom at a solution caused Pharaoh to make him the #2 man in all the kingdom (41:33-40)
    - iii. He was now greater than even the man who had previously owned him – Potiphar
2. Joseph's family ends up coming to him for food (Gen 42:1-6)
  - a. They are reunited
  - b. Joseph reveals himself (Gen 45:1-4)
  - c. Forgives them for the way they treated him (Gen 45:5-7)
  - d. **Gen 50:20** – *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*
3. To refuse to compromise, and to keep your faith in God strong regardless of the circumstances, will enable you to continue to see the blessings of God

Last week Katerina and I were in a very different place than what we were used to

But there was a tangible, genuine beauty demonstrated by people who were also sinners saved by the grace of an almighty God through the person of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Encourage you this morning to consider the life of Joseph the next time you are in a difficult situation

- Refuse to compromise
  - Remain faithful
  - Seek the good and the blessings of God even in the midst of the storm
- What is the area of compromise in your life this morning?
  - In what circumstances do you find it to be the most difficult to remain faithful?
  - When was the last time you had the choice to either complain or praise God for His goodness and blessings – and you chose to praise Him?