

Character Development Is A Journey!

Navigating Life's Journey, Pt. 3

Genesis 37-50

August 21, 2016

Five Essentials To Character Development:

1. Overcome BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

Genesis 37:3, Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him... ¹⁸...they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him...²⁶Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷Come, let's sell him... after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed. ²⁸So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels...

2. Conduct Yourself With INTEGRITY

Genesis 39:4, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household...Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” ⁸But he refused... ¹⁹When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. ²⁰Joseph's master took him and put him in prison...

3. Work Diligently Regardless Of The CIRCUMSTANCES

Genesis 39:20, ...But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹the LORD was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²²So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison...

Genesis 41:41, So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” ⁴²Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen... ⁴⁶Joseph was thirty years old... ⁴⁷During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. ⁴⁸Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities... ⁴⁹Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain...

4. Choose Forgiveness Over BITTERNESS

Genesis 50:15, *When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ...¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ... ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.*

5. Be Relentlessly **POSITIVE**

Genesis 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.*

James 1:2, *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Philippians 4:8, *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

⁹*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or*

seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Cottonwood Challenge—Your Prayer This Week:

1. List your past broken relationships that still consume you. Ask God to help you move on!
2. List areas in your life that lack integrity. Confess them and ask for forgiveness!
3. Commit to work diligently at your job regardless of the circumstances. Ask God to give you joy and success in your job!
4. List those people you are bitter at. Ask God to help you choose forgiveness over bitterness!
5. Choose to be positive not negative by seeing the good and not the bad!
6. Every Thursday, for the next 3 weeks from 12:00p – 1:00p, we will have a time for fasting and prayer in the Game Plan Center. If you can't come, follow my social media page and pray through the scriptures at home or at the office.