



Joseph vs. Jonah The Battle against Bitterness

Life Isn't Fair _____ - **Just ask Joseph** (Genesis 37-50)

- Joseph had 10 older step- brothers and one little brother, but he was his dad's favorite _____. (37:3)
- While on an errand for his dad, Joseph ran into the anger _____ of his brothers. (37:18-24)
- Even though he did nothing wrong _____, He was sold as a slave _____. (37:27-28)
- As a slave, he did everything right _____, but was accused falsely and sent to prison _____. (39:11-20)
- In prison, he did everything right and even helped someone else in prison, but then he was forgotten _____. (40:23)
- **Joseph was a perfect candidate for bitterness _____!**
 - Bitterness toward people _____
 - Bitterness toward God _____

People can be evil _____ - **Just ask Jonah** (Jonah 1-4)

Jonah 1 ¹ The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai:

² "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."

³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord.

Who were the people of Nineveh? The Assyrians _____

• They were a very cruel _____ people

"The barbarities which followed the capture of a town would be almost incredible, were they not a subject of boast in the inscriptions which record them... Pyramids of human heads marked the path of the conqueror; boys and girls were burnt alive or reserved for a worse fate; men were impaled, flayed alive, blinded, or deprived of their hands and feet, of their ears and noses, while the women and children were carried into slavery, the captured city plundered and reduced to ashes, and the trees in its neighborhood cut down... Every man in Israel knew these things. Jonah most certainly did, for he came from a border town, and may even have witnessed Assyrian savageries in frontier raids." Explore the Book by S. Baxter

- They were the ones that God's prophets had predicted would destroy Israel _____
 - **Isaiah 7:17** "He will bring the king of Assyria upon you!"
 - **Hosea 10:5-10** "I will call out the armies of the nations to punish you for your multiplied sins."
 - **Hosea 11:5** "But since my people refuse to return to me, they will return to Egypt and will be forced to serve Assyria."

Why would he run from his God-given assignment?

Jonah 4:2 "That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people."

- Jonah was a patriot _____ man who loved his "beloved but wayward countrymen."
- Jonah was willing to give up his _____ life to save his people _____ (Romans 9:1-3)
- BUT, the people of Nineveh repented _____ and Jonah, the instrument God used in their repentance, was now bitter.
 - Bitter toward the people _____
 - Bitter toward God _____

People and Circumstances will either lead you to greater faith _____ or to bitterness _____

- Reality of life: There are bad _____ people in life
- Reality of life: Even good people will sometimes do you wrong _____
- Realities of life will either draw you closer _____ to God or lead you away _____ from God.

What should we do when reality _____ happens?

- Ask Jesus within you what God asked Jonah: "Is it right _____ for you to be angry _____ about this?" (4:4)
 - Look _____ for God in every situation
 - Trust _____ in God in every situation
 - Obey _____ God in every situation
- Follow Jesus _____ and allow Him to live through you.
 - In everything surrender _____ to God. (Peter)
 - Grant forgiveness _____ whether people ask for it or not. (Colossians 3:12-15)
 - In everything follow the commandment to love _____

The Rest of the Story

- **Joseph saw the heart _____ & plan of God** – Genesis 50:19-20
- **Jonah missed _____ the heart & plan of God** – Jonah 4:9-11



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