

The Way Up is Down

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Genesis 37.
- B. God had a purpose - he wanted to save many people because of the famine in the land. God chose Joseph, but he had to get him down there and had to train him.

II. Parental home.

- A. If you are going to build a high rise you must build a solid foundation. (John 14:21)
- B. If God says something is not going to work, it is not going to work. (Isaiah 1:19, Psalm 50:20, Romans 8:28)
- C. In the parental home, Joseph learned to work early and this made him a better man.
- D. Joseph had to learn obedience like Jesus. (Hebrews 5:8)

III. The pit.

- A. We reap what we sew, and Jacob reaped the consequences of his actions.
- B. Salvation could only come from above in the pit.

IV. Potifer's house. (Genesis 39:2-3)

- A. He who does, does. He who does not, does not.
- B. Joseph was a prosperous man in whatever he did. (1 Corinthians 7:20-24)
- C. God honed Joseph's gift of management. (Mark 10:45)

V. Prison.

- A. Potifer's wife took a liking to Joseph, and he fled.
- B. We must flee the lust of the flesh. (1 Peter 2:11, 2:22, Proverbs 7:6-27)
- C. Nevertheless, the wife falsely accused Joseph and blamed her husband. (Genesis 39:20-21)
- D. We want to live the right kind of life because God is looking into all places for righteous men. (2 Chronicles 16:9)
- E. We are never neglected when we know God—God was preparing Joseph to run a nation. (Proverbs 16:7)

F. God made Joseph prosper even in prison. (Genesis 39:23)

VI. Pharaoh's.

- A. God's spirit completed the job and impressed Pharaoh with Joseph.
- B. Joseph received authority from Pharaoh for interpreting his dreams correctly.
- C. Never doubt in the dark what God has told you in the light. (Hebrews 14:5-9)
- D. We start at the bottom, not the top.

Application questions

1. What does it mean - the way up is down?

2. Was God's training program something that Joseph initiated or God? How do challenges shape the believer in discipleship?

3. Memorize Genesis 50:30 and write it below. What attitude are we to have when people practice evil against us? Explain.
