

**THAT MAY NOT BE MY EXPERIENCE—  
BUT GOD STILL HAS ME**

Whatever our experience in life may be—positive or negative—we must remember God is still in control.

**KEY POINTS**

- ❖ It's quite possible that many of us have felt overlooked, underappreciated, unloved or even undervalued at some point on our lives, which is sometimes followed by feelings of low self-esteem, sadness, frustration, etc.
- ❖ It is during experiences like these that it becomes important for us to remind ourselves that God is in absolute control of the universe and also of our lives.
- ❖ "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them" (Romans 8:28 NLT).
- ❖ The story of Joseph is a great example that illustrates an instance of feeling overlooked or undervalued. But it would be more insightful for us to consider the story of Joseph from the perspective of his brothers.
- ❖ In Genesis 37:3-8, we can clearly see that Joseph received preferential treatment from his father Jacob. This caused friction to the family dynamic: Joseph's brothers hated and resented him.
- ❖ Joseph received gifts of great value from Jacob, and his brothers knew their father had a special place for him in his heart because he had had him later in life.
- ❖ Was it fair that Joseph's brothers were overlooked and undervalued? No, it wasn't. Was it their reality? Unfortunately, yes, it was.
- ❖ What is even more challenging about the dynamic between Joseph and his brothers is the fact that it was their father, Jacob, who had created the rift that existed between them.
- ❖ Jacob should have known better because his uncle Laban also treated him unfairly.
- ❖ There is a phrase that says "hurt people, hurt people." It is quite possible that Jacob's behaviour toward his children may have been influenced by his own negative experiences with his uncle Laban.
- ❖ The unfortunate reality is that people who have experienced being mistreated are the ones that have to deal with the feelings of low self-esteem, sadness, frustration, anger and other similar feelings.
- ❖ In the case of Joseph's brothers, their frustration and anger was directed toward Joseph when, in actuality, the source of the problem was their father.
- ❖ When we in such a situation—wrestling with feelings of low self-esteem, sadness or anger, which are the result of being overlooked and undervalued—it is important for us to try and identify the true source of the issue.
- ❖ It is easy to misdirect negative energy towards other people when we cannot properly identify the cause of unease in our own experiences. This is when self-reflection can be an invaluable process.

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 37:3-8 NLT

- ❖ We need to be diligent in not letting our emotions consume us, driving us to become someone God did not intend to create.
- ❖ Paul said to the Ephesians "don't sin by letting anger control you" (Ephesians 4:26a NLT).
- ❖ Remember that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Through Christ we are new creations intended to glorify God and to bring glory to God.
- ❖ Joseph's brothers are an example of how not to handle experiences of feeling overlooked. Their emotions drove them to resolve the problem by plotting to kill Joseph. When plan "A" failed, they sold him into slavery.
- ❖ How are we dealing with feeling overlooked, underappreciated, unloved or undervalued?
- ❖ The truth is we cannot conquer these feelings on our own. We need the help of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. The first step is to allow Jesus into our experiences. And be thankful! (See Philippians 4:6-7 NLT.)
- ❖ This will help us to have a positive outlook when confronting these negative emotions. It will also expose us to the healing power of God's Spirit and His word.
- ❖ Part of our healing process may involve having a conversation with the people whose actions caused us to have these feelings. Or we may need to share our feelings with someone we trust, or seek professional help.
- ❖ It's crucial that we remind ourselves of Romans 8:28. God really is in control and will cause all of our experiences—whether we view them as positive or negative—to be for our benefit.

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS**

1. List and discuss two things you discovered in the story of Joseph as a result of looking at it from his brothers' perspective. What value(s) can be extracted to bolster our faith in God?
2. Consider and suggest two alternative solutions that Joseph's brothers could have used instead of selling him into slavery.
3. How can we deal with the negative emotions of being overlooked, underappreciated, unloved or undervalued?
4. How do you think seeking professional help could be meaningful in the life of a Christian who is dealing with the above negative emotions?

**PRAYER TIME**




Lord, things are rough and I admit to being a bit discouraged. But I'll keep pressing on, because I know You still continue to hold me.




Start-up: Have you ever done something for another person and they never said "thank you"? How did you feel about yourself/that person afterwards?

**WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021**

**NOTES**

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)

 (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

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**PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS**

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**Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Revelation of the divinity of Jesus Christ to religious non-Christians



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**To register for in-person Sunday services:**

Go to [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com) > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu and follow prompts  
Time: Church doors open at 10:15 a.m. & close at 11:00 a.m.  
**\*Public Health protocols to be observed\***

**FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS**

To donate online, please go to [www.faithsanctuary.com/give](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/give)  
For email transfers, please use [donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)

**Press Toward the Mark**  
I count not myself to have apprehended,  
When I think of all the things I've done;  
But this one thing I do, I put the past  
behind me,  
So I can  
Press toward the mark for the prize of the  
high calling,  
Press toward the mark for the prize of the  
high calling,  
Press toward the mark for the prize of the  
high calling,  
In Jesus Christ

**FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES**  
**SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study**  
**SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE**  
**SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast**  
**MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube**  
**WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast**

**FAITH FOUNDATIONS**

**GOD**

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

**GOD'S WORD**

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

**GOD'S CREATION**

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

**HUMANITY'S FALL**

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

**THE GOSPEL**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

**OUR FAITH RESPONSE**

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

**CHRIST'S RETURN**

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JUNE 13, 2021



*2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021*

**Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie**

*"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."  
Philippians 3:13-14 NLT*

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