

THINGS UNSEEN

Joseph's Dysfunctional Family

Pastor Daniel Hahn
April 27/28, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES

Dysfunctional families aren't a modern phenomenon:

1. Families are made up of imperfect people, which means we all grow up carrying some baggage.
2. Every one of us can think of people we could easily blame for our "issues."

*Is there someone you continue to blame for the hurt you had to endure, bringing pain that never got reconciled? If so, do you have any idea how much emotional energy you are burning up nursing that wound? And while I'm asking questions: Are you aware of the joy-stealing effect an unforgiving spirit is having on your life? Please listen to me. It is not worth it. You need to come to terms with this lingering, nagging issue now. The peace and contentment and joy that could be yours are draining away, like water down the drain of an unplugged bathtub. — Chuck Swindoll, *Laugh Again**

3. Homes can turn into war zones when parents are inconsistent or play favorites.

Bringing it home:

1. Envy, rivalry, and resentment are relational cancers that can literally destroy families.
2. All the opportunities, skills, and provisions we've been given are for the purpose of blessing others, not impressing them.
3. Our wisest move is always to surrender ourselves (and our families) to God, and trust Him for all that is beyond our control.

*Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted. — Christine Caine, *Undaunted**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What's one significant thing you learned about Joseph's dysfunctional family?
- In what ways are many families dysfunctional to some degree?
- Can you identify any commonalities between Joseph's family and your family of origin?
- How can parents (or grandparents) inadvertently show favoritism toward certain kids?
- What are factors that can contribute to parents making poor choices in the way they raise their kids?
- What are some "checks" we can apply to parenting that help us determine what may be out of balance?
- What caused Joseph's brothers to hate him, and then what caused them to hate him even more (37:5-8)?
- Based on the reaction Joseph got from his brothers, what wise insights might we gain from the whole incident?
- When have you had to learn a lesson in life the hard way?
- Can you think of a situation in your own life where you've had to contend with feelings of jealousy?
- Is there one way you'd like to develop non-partiality in your love for your family members and communicate that in practical ways?