

The Lives of Jacob & Joseph

Life of Jacob

Contrast of Jacob & Joseph:

1) *With Jacob you need to retrain your eyes*

a) *Mistakes are beyond obvious*

- Tricking Esau out of the blessing
 - Favoring his wives
 - Passivity in his situation with his daughter
 - Acting like the passive victim with his sons when they slaughtered Shechem
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Life of Jacob

Contrast of Jacob & Joseph:

1) *With Jacob you need to retrain your eyes*

- a) *Mistakes are beyond obvious*
 - b) Acknowledgement/continual pursuit of God needs vision to see
 - God meets him on his way to Haran & he is forever changed
 - Faithfully knows he is only to take a wife from his distant family rather than the pagans and does it as opposed to his brother Esau
 - Serves Laban for 20 years with TOTAL integrity even though Laban cheats him every chance he gets (switching his wives, changing his wages, etc.)
 - Continually acknowledges everything he has is because of God and NEVER seems to lose sight of this
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Life of Jacob

Contrast of Jacob & Joseph:

1) *With Jacob you need to retrain your eyes*

- a) *Mistakes are beyond obvious*
 - b) Acknowledgement/continual pursuit of God needs vision to see
 - Calls for and buries his wife's idols when it doesn't even appear God told him to
 - He wrestles with God all night long, demanding GOD bless him rather than him manipulating a blessing as he did in his younger years
 - Goes before his family when he faces Esau rather than cowering behind them
 - He erects alters to God all over the place as a reminder to himself and to God that God is God and he is not
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Life of Jacob

Contrast of Jacob & Joseph:

2) *Joseph is cast in a completely different way*

- a) Really never see the behind the scenes look at his relationship with God, but you do see it painted across his life and the way he reacts to difficult situations
 - b) You hardly see this man mess up
 - c) Despite almost everything going wrong for him he never seems to play the victim and instead watches as God steps into the wreckage called his life and redeems gold
 - d) His character and integrity and leadership and humility are almost other worldly
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Life of Jacob

Some of the topics in Joseph's life:

- *Overcoming a dysfunctional family background*
 - *Living pure sexually – primarily as a man of God*
 - *Dealing w/ loneliness and rejection – the sense of being forgotten by God*
 - *Handling success*
 - *The what not to dos of parenting – really perhaps the two greatest mistakes you can make as a parent*
 - *Moving from bitterness to forgiveness*
 - *Seeing God in the deserts of your life*
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Life of Jacob

Breakdown of the Story:

I. Birth to 17 years – Genesis 30:24-37:2

Forging of a man

II. 17 to 30 years – Genesis 37:2-41:46

Repeating hurt of the desert experience

III. 30 Years to Death – Genesis 41:46-50:26

Living free under forgiveness & prosperity

Life of Jacob

Will I remember this when I am 80?

Life of Jacob

Genesis 37:1-2

Life of Jacob

Let's retrace his life up until now:

- 1) *Story of 20 years w/ Laban (Rachel and Leah) - Here that Joseph was born*
 - 2) *After several years growing up, flocks growing, sneaks away to Canaan in the middle of the night leaving the only world Joseph ever knew - culture, landscape, people, etc.*
 - 3) *Laban hunts him down – can see him pursuing them from a distance*
 - 4) *Esau comes back in the picture with 400 men coming at them no less*
 - 5) *When his father emerges to face Esau, he is totally injured for life after wrestling with God, covered in dirt and exhausted from not sleeping*
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Life of Jacob

Let's retrace his life up until now:

- 6) Go to City of Shechem... where they know no one
 - 7) Dinah incident with Prince Shechem
 - 8) King offers anything for marriage, sons trick them & slaughter the whole city
 - 9) Picked up and flee to Bethel
 - 10) All the while Jacob his dad has these deep encounters with God
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Life of Jacob

How would you mark Joseph's first 17 years?

I. Dysfunctional Family

- Father Jacob - Names means literally = the "deceiver"
When God changed his name to Israel = "God Strives"
 - Mother lacked character – worshiped idols, deceived
 - Serious strife between the moms/wives – brought on in part by favoritism
 - Violation of Dinah by Shechem
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Life of Jacob

How would you mark Joseph's first 17 years?

II. Tragic losses

- Death of Deborah his mom's nursemaid
 - Death of his mother Rachel
 - Burying his grandfather Isaac
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Life of Jacob

How would you mark Joseph's first 17 years?

III. Frightening Memories

- Running from Laban – can you imagine being 4 or 5 and being thrown on a camel
 - Meeting w/ Esau - 400 men coming after his family
 - His Dad maimed by God
 - Running from town of Shechem
 - Sight of his father burying idols and coming to God
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Life of Jacob

God will do more than overcome your past!

Jer. 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Life of Jacob

There was a beautiful process that God provided:

- *Creates recognition – Joseph in the pit*
 - *Creates separation – Joseph in Egypt*
 - *Creates down time for healing – Joseph in jails*
 - *Creates an awakened walk – process of Joseph's family being summoned back*
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