

RIGHT WHERE YOU WANT THEM

The Legend of Joe Jacobson, Part 3

January 22nd, 2012

This question should become the lens through which we see every circumstance of life

The Question: "What would someone in your circumstances do, if they were absolutely certain God was with them"

This question has the power to change your life and how you interpret all of life

Throughout this story we find the Scripture stating, "The Lord was with Joseph"

Based on the circumstances, we would say, God is not with Joseph

Regardless of Joseph's circumstances, he never changed

Genesis 41:55; 42:1-7

The way life works is, often the people who hurt you, will need you one day

Galatians 6:7 (NIV) "A man reaps what he sows."

In that moment when you have power, you will have a significant & difficult decision to make

There is something in you that makes you want somebody to pay for what was done to you

We know, hurt people, hurt people

In our hurt we often make others pay for it, even though they had nothing to do with our pain

Most who hear our story tell us we should get even

Genesis 42:9-21

The brothers believe God is paying them back for what they did to Joseph

Genesis 42:22 through Genesis 43

In dealing with pain, even after we think we are over it, circumstances come up which cause the pain, emotions, the memories to resurface

There are times you may be tempted to think God has engineered the circumstances so you can pay back those who have hurt you

Genesis 44 through Genesis 45:5

God may be silent, but He is not absent

Genesis 45:6-8

There is incredible power in seeing God walking with you through circumstances you can't imagine

God has an unbelievable way of using the worst of things for the best of things

Genesis 45:9-11; Genesis 50:15-21

People may have an evil intent for us; God has a good intent, and God wins

There may be events in your past that you need to go back and look at through this lens

You will never experience all the good that can come from the bad in your life until you are first willing to acknowledge that God was with you in the bad time, and then you refuse to play God when things are good

When you have the power, you must not play God, instead you must trust God

God has not given us what we deserve but what we desperately need
Romans 5:8 (NIV) "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

In those moments when we have the power, and those people who have hurt us come to us in need, we can either look back or we can look up

The most courageous thing you will do is when you choose to forgive the people who have hurt you the most

Forgiveness is not for weak people

Forgiveness is for the person who has gained a perspective that gives them strength to live their lives as if God was with you

Do you try to play God, or do you try to follow God?

When things turn around in your life, don't be like the one who hurt you

What would you do, how would you respond, how would life be different, if you live each day as if God were with you – because He is

My Next Step Today Is:

- God, help me live each day and see each circumstance as if You are with me, because You are.
- When I am in power, and those who have hurt me come for my help, I will not look back, but I will look up and not try to play God, but I will follow God.
- I will memorize Genesis 39:2, "The Lord was with Joseph & he prospered."