



## Lesson #2: Responding to Rejection

Joseph was rejected, betrayed and abandoned by his own family. His status changed in an instant from favored \_\_\_\_\_ in Canaan to anonymous \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt. When we come to the story of Joseph in Genesis 37 we meet a \_\_\_\_\_ year old young man living in the middle of a very dysfunctional family who seems to have everything going against him. Most especially Joseph is about to become the victim of cruel, family rejection.

The pain of Joseph's rejection is painted throughout the pages of God's Word.

- Genesis 42:21 – “We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the \_\_\_\_\_ of his soul ... and we would not hear.”
- Psalm 105:17-18 – “Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they \_\_\_\_\_ with fetters: he was lad in iron.”
- Amos 6:6 – “They are not grieved for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Joseph.”

The story of Joseph from the end of Genesis 37 onward is a story of survival. It's a story that proves that God is able to help you survive the affliction of rejection.

### WHO WILL BE REJECTED?

#### A. Those who stand for \_\_\_\_\_ can expect rejection (Gen. 37:2)

Joseph was a young man who told the truth. He was rejected because he was bold enough to say when someone was doing the wrong thing.

#### B. Those who seek a brighter \_\_\_\_\_ can expect rejection (Gen. 37:5)

Joseph was a son who had a dream. He dared to dream that God could use him! Be careful! The greater it seems the future of one the more it seems it will be the burden of others to bring him down a notch or two. The truth is that people don't always want to hear from others that are being \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in their duties can expect rejection (Gen. 37:13-17)

Joseph was willing to go when his father told him to go and do. He was obedient.

## WHAT CAUSES REJECTION?

Joseph's brothers were infected with two virulent \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A. The poison of \_\_\_\_\_ causes rejection (37:11)

There's a little word in verse 11 that points out the character of Joseph's brothers – “*And his brethren ENVIED him.*” This is the envy of malice; it denotes resentment against Joseph for being favored, and a desire to see him deprived of his privileges. Envy causes you to want the lives of others to be \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. The poison of the \_\_\_\_\_ causes rejection (37:18)

Notice the number of times plural pronouns are used in verse 18. “*And THEY saw him afar off, even before he came near unto THEM, THEY conspired to kill him.*” Envy hunts in a pack. Men and women will do things in a group that they would never think to do alone. There is \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from the crowd.

## HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO REJECTION?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and Joseph stand as unique portraits and testimonies of virtuous men in their generation even when the pressures of the world and their family is coming against them. Notice the virtuous response of Joseph to rejection.

#### A. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of rejection (41:38)

Flashing forward in the life of Joseph we see that he has been through much worse than being thrown into a pit by his brothers. Yet, when we open to Genesis 41 we find Joseph to be a remarkable example of faithfulness in trials. All along the way this man's \_\_\_\_\_ was about faithfulness.

#### B. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of rejection (50:17-20)

Joseph is a man who had learned not to render \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. In Genesis 50 we learn that Joseph learned the power of forgiveness even towards family members who hurt him dreadfully. Years later, after the cruelty of rejection, Joseph is able to look back and say, “God used this for good.”

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

God is seeking to show us through Joseph's life, even in the midst of rejection, the portrait of our \_\_\_\_\_. Of all the people that fill the pages of Scripture none more beautifully portrays the life of Jesus than the life of Joseph.

When you are rejected you have the opportunity to portray \_\_\_\_\_ more powerfully than at any other time!

“\_\_\_\_\_ on earth. \_\_\_\_\_ in Heaven.”