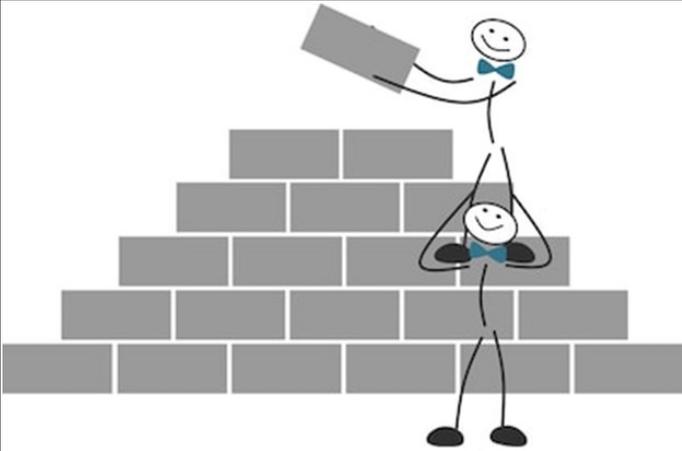


Rise & Build:

Reflections from the Joseph Story



The Rubble of Family Troubles

Our theme of "Rise & Build" is wrapped around two concepts: seeing things that are not as they ought to be and the belief that things can be better. Rise & build is an optimistic view of the future. Nehemiah isn't the only Biblical story that can be defined as "Rise & Build." Noah's life, Paul's life, Moses' life, Job's life all reflect that "Rise & build concept. This study will look at yet another powerful Bible character: Joseph. His life illustrates multiple times of falling and rising.

Proverbs 24:16 "For a righteous man falls seven times and _____ again..."

A. Outline of Joseph's Life:

Birth to 17 years old (Gen 30:24-37:2)

17 years old - 30 years old (Gen 37:2-41:46)

30 years old—110 years old (Gen 41:46-50:26)

At the end of Joseph's life, he was second in command of all Egypt, the greatest world power at that time. He wasn't gifted this from his heritage. His beginning was hard. That is where we begin, "The Rubble of family troubles."

B. A Troubled Home:

1. Joseph's family life was not a model of godliness and comfort

- His mother died giving birth to Benjamin
- His step-sister was raped and his step-brothers retaliated by killing all the men of the city, stealing their wealth and kidnapping their families
- His step-brother had sexual relations with his step-mother
- Jacob's favorite child was Joseph (Gen 37:3)
- Joseph's brothers hated him and "could not speak to him on friendly terms" (Gen 37:4)

We find a family filled with anger, jealousy, deceit and hatred. It was a hostile environment in which God has been left out of the picture.

- Gen 37:8 "So they hated him even more for his dreams
- Gen 37:11 "And his brothers were jealous of him..."
- Gen 37:17 "...come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits"
- Gen 37:23,25 "...they stripped Joseph of his tunic...and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it. Then they sat down to eat a meal..."
- Gen 37:28 Joseph is sold to Midian traders who take him to Egypt

Jacob was told that Joseph was killed. The bloody tunic was shown as evidence. There was no search and rescue party for Joseph. He was on his own in a foreign country.

Family Troubles is not Unique to the Joseph story

The Rubble of Family Troubles Has Kept Many from Rising & Building a Life that is pleasing to God

- Neglect & dysfunction
- No love spoken or shown
- Divorce
- Favoritism
- Rivalry, comparison & jealousy
- Alcoholism, drug abuse, money troubles
- Lack of discipline
- No positive example or encouragement
- Encouragement to cheat and break rules
- Materialism

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. No trouble is as _____ as the one at home

- It is at home that we first learn the great _____ of life
- It is at home that our _____ is first built
- The impressions from home are carried with us all of our lives
- Home can be a great refuge of love and acceptance

2. The role of parents is pivotal in shaping the d_____ of the home

- Like shepherds in the church, parents have the role of watching, nourishing and developing those in their home
- Each person and at every stage of life has unique needs, temptations and care that must be provided

3. Each family makes their home the way that they _____ it to be

- What you grew up with, does not have to be the home you have _____
- You may come to the conclusion that you have _____ in common with your spiritual family than you do your physical siblings
- As an adult, you no longer have to _____ the mental and psychological games of guilt, jealousy and gossip that runs through so many families. Even among our siblings, we are to let our light shine.
- You have the choice of being held _____ to your past and how others see you, or rise to what God _____ of you
- The temptations of bitterness, hatred and getting even do not _____ Joseph into Egypt

Nothing Beats:

1. Giving each person some _____ with you
2. Creating an _____ where things can be talked out, discussed and explored
3. Seeing the “_____” that is in each of your children (Prov 22:6)
4. Each child feeling _____ loved, accepted and wanted
5. A godly _____ of marriage, worship, and following the Lord