



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 44:18-47:27; 50:20
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 24:45-47; 9:37-38
- Luke 2:25-32
- 1Peter 3:17-18
- Galatians 6:9
- 2 Thessalonians 3:13
- Hebrews 12:3
- Psalms 105:16-17

EMOTIONAL TUG-OF-WAR

- Judah Speaks Lies
- The Plot Thickens!
- Tug-of-war Climaxes!
- Sound Theology-Forgiveness
- Never Avenge Yourself
- Suffer for Doing Good
- Do Not Become Weary!
- A Purposeful Existence
- Jacob's Spirit is Revived

As we move about in our everyday lives, nothing is more evident than the constant emotional tug-of-war in which we live! Life is filled with constant psychological battles, which we can choose to fight in the flesh or in the Spirit. Truthfully, none of us likes dealing with the issues that have forced such battles.

However, it is also evident that Christians today have, in many ways, been wrongly led to believe that the moment they receive Christ as Savior, life will all of the sudden become easier, such

*battles will become a thing of the past, money will flow in, sickness will remain at bay, and everyone will get along. And the list of G-rated thoughts can grow **ad nauseam!** You've heard this type of preaching; I have too! Do such beliefs have a place in the minds of Christians living solely for the Kingdom? If so, was Peter then wrong when he said, "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil?" (1 Peter 3:17) Let's find out!*

What we learn from today's Scriptures is that instead of the zero-issue life, the battles we face don't come about by mere happenstance. They are orchestrated by God and they should most definitely not become wasted opportunities. Let's not pass up these opportunities, both to develop a more theologically sound way of handling such situations, and in turn, to advance God's Kingdom.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, "**I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?**" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "**Come near to me, please.**" And they came near.

And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
Genesis 45:1-4 ESV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

*“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in **harmony** with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **Repay no one evil for evil**, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, **never avenge yourselves**, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:9-21 ESV*

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The portion begins with the dramatic unveiling of Joseph's true identity and his reconciliation with his brothers. It then proceeds to tell the story of the migration of Jacob's family to Egypt and the rest of the famine years. We begin to set the stage for the Egyptian captivity of the sons of Jacob.
2. Leading up to this:
 - a) Joseph had "commanded the steward of his house" to place his silver cup in the mouth of Benjamin's sack.
 - b) He then instructed his servant to go and seize them on the way back.
 - c) "Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them,"why have you repaid evil for good?" Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this"
 - d) Once the steward "overtook" them, he spoke the same exact words Joseph requested to his brothers
 - e) The steward searched their sacks "beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest"
 - f) The cup was found in Benjamin's sack as that was where Joseph had requested it should be placed.

- g) The spokesperson for the brothers, heading back to Canaan, had offered to kill anyone in whose possession the cup be found (if any), and the rest of the brothers would become servants.
 - h) Of course, the cup is found among Benjamin's possession, so he is he one who must give his life. Now the great drama ensues.
3. **Judah appeals for Benjamin:** He tells Joseph about his father's attachment and fear of letting Benjamin go to Egypt and how he absolutely cannot go back to Canaan without him.
 4. Jacob had said: "If you take this one from me too, something terrible will happen to him, and you will send me—old as I am—to my grave in despair."
 5. Judah emphasizes how he had guaranteed Benjamin's safety when he pleaded with Jacob to take him to Egypt, emphasizing to his father that they cannot go back without him or they would be deemed spies (Simeon would likely die).
 6. Judah begs to take Benjamin's place as Joseph's slave—anything instead having to hurt his father so badly [AGAIN!] by not returning with Benjamin!
 7. In doing so, he (Judah), unbeknownst to him, reveals to Joseph for the very first time what his father was told happened to him.

8. "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. One left me, and I said, "**Surely he has been torn to pieces**," and I have never seen him since."
Genesis 44:27-28
9. Up to that very moment Joseph had no idea what his father was made to believe about his whereabouts.
10. It is at this very moment that the plot begins to thicken!
11. Could you transport yourself back to such a moment?
 - a) What would be your reaction if someone was telling you a story about yourself you knew was entirely inaccurate?
 - b) Furthermore, the person telling you the story was the perpetrator of the lie?
12. Judah's authentic love for Benjamin and Jacob pierces Joseph's heart (Certainly his hard-hearted brothers have changed.)
13. Joseph is so moved with emotions that he clears the room and reveals his identity.
14. "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?"
15. His brother's first reaction is terror! They think they are doomed!
16. You can see the depth of emotions here by the very nature of Joseph's revelation. "Is my father really still alive?" So, curious as there have been multiple conversations about Jacob and the entire narrative has focused on how devastated he would be if something happened to Benjamin. OF COURSE HE'S ALIVE but

Joseph's depth of emotion is seemingly immeasurable in the moment!

17. The timing here is that we are two years into the famine which means Joseph is about 39 years old. And Jacob has believed Joseph's been dead for 22 years!
18. Then the most extraordinary revelation come out of Joseph's mouth: "Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives **[deliver you, save you, be your salvation, Y'shua]**. God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt."
19. Joseph now excitedly sends his brothers back to get their dad and the whole family, so that they can live near him in Goshen **with all their flocks and herds. [this is a key point as it is not exactly what Pharaoh says when Joseph asks him permission to do so!]**
20. "Go tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you've seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."
21. This is what Pharaoh says when he hears the news: "Give your brothers these instructions: Load your pack animals and go back to the land of Canaan. Get your father and your households and

come back to me. Let me provide you with good things from the land of Egypt so that you may eat the land's best food. **Give them these instructions too:** Take wagons from the land of Egypt for your children and wives, and pick up your father and come back. ***Don't worry about your possessions* because you will have good things from the entire land of Egypt.** [Leave your old stuff behind]

22. The sons return to get the family, "Joseph's still alive! He's actually ruler of all the land of Egypt!"
23. Israel [Jacob] is overwhelmed. "This is too much! My son Joseph is still alive! Let me go and see him **[the salvation of Israel]** before I die." [This seems very much like the words of Simeon in the New Testament when he says he just wants to live long enough to see Y'shua the Messiah and then he can die in peace.]
24. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Yahweh's Messiah. So when Y'shua's parents brought Him to the temple to be dedicated according to the custom of the law, Simeon took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Yahweh, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; **For my eyes have seen Your salvation** which You have prepared

before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”” (Luke 2:25-32)

25. Israel packs to move to Egypt and Yahweh says to him in a vision to not be afraid to go and that He will make him a great nation there.
26. “I will go down to Egypt with you, and I promise to bring you out again. Joseph will close your eyes when you die.”
27. **Here is where it gets glitchy!** Israel’s sons put their father Jacob, their children, and their wives on the wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry him. **And they take all their livestock and their possessions that they had acquired in the land of Canaan with them.** [THIS IS NOT WHAT PHARAOH SAID TO DO. HE TOLD THEM TO LEAVE THEIR STUFF BACK IN CANAAN AND THAT THEY WOULD GET ALL NEW STUFF!] **If Joseph represents the image of Y’shua in this story (the deliverer), then Pharaoh is the image of Yahweh and ultimately we are bound to His instructions!**
28. The portion goes on to name all of Jacob’s household who migrate from Canaan to Egypt (Goshen)—totaling 70.
29. When Jacob arrives, he throws his arms around Joseph and weeps, Now “I can die now after seeing your face. You are really still alive!” [Like Simeon]

30. Joseph tells Pharaoh they have arrived and instructs his family to tell him they are all shepherds which Egyptian's consider second class citizens—this is so they'd be given the fertile land of Goshen to raise livestock.
31. Joseph goes in to inform Pharaoh, "**My father and brothers with their flocks, herds, and everything they own** have come from the land of Canaan and are now in the land of Goshen." [This would seem to be a complete contradiction of Pharaoh's orders.] *"Don't worry about your possessions because you will have good things from the entire land of Egypt."*
32. Pharaoh gives them Goshen and even asks them to take care of his livestock.
33. Jacob is 130 years old and he blesses Pharaoh.
34. As the famine rages on the people spend all their silver; then in the next year, all their livestock; then in the next year they give all their land and even their very bodies to Pharaoh for food! (except for the priests).
35. So Pharaoh owned everything, the money, the animals, the land and the people. He gives the people seed and they forever must give him back 1/5 of what they produce!
36. And the people are grateful to become slaves of the King [How prophetic is this? We are happy to become the bondservants of our King!]

37. The people said, "You've saved our lives. If you wish, we will be Pharaoh's slaves." So Joseph made a law that still exists today:

38. **This is the exact prophetic picture of these words of Y'shua in**

Matthew 24: *"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."* Matthew 24:45-47

- (a) Faithful and wise servant = Joseph
- (b) Ruler of the household = Joseph
- (c) Provider of food in due season (famine) = Joseph!
- (d) Blessed is the servant who is being like A JOSEPH when Y'shua returns!
- (e) Why? Because it will produce the greatest harvest in the history of the world. *"Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* Matthew 9:37-38
- (f) The people will voluntarily give over their lives to Yahweh!
- (g) "You've saved our lives. If you wish, we will [voluntarily] be Pharaoh's slaves. And that is precisely what a bondservant is, a VOLUNTARY SLAVE! [See Deuteronomy 15:12-18] And also, notice in the New Testament how many times the

Disciples of Y'shua refer to themselves as bondservants. i.e.
*"Paul, a bondservant of Y'shua Messiah, called to be an
apostle, separated to the gospel of God."* (Romans 1:1)

- (h) **Note:** for an in-depth study on the Hebrew bondservant, see the Impact Discipleship teaching (notes and video) from 08/08/2020. **Title:** [The Bondservant and His Master](#)

39. The portion ends with Israel settling in the land of Goshen and becoming VERY numerous.

EMOTIONAL TUG-OF-WAR CAN...

1. **Make us feel we deserve an apology!**

A. **I am completely innocent in this matter!**

- (1) Having heard the lies and deceit he had been the recipient of, Joseph "could not control himself before all those who stood by him."
- (2) He asks for the room to be cleared, everyone but his brothers.
- (3) Joseph was so emotional at this moment that the Pharaoh's entire household heard his cries!
- (4) He then reveals himself to his brothers!
- (5) "I am Joseph, is my father still alive?" Genesis 45:3a

- (6) Joseph's brothers found themselves speechless, "But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence" Genesis 45:3b
- (7) It is at this moment when Joseph demonstrates his perfect understanding of who God is.
- (8) His brothers were speechless because they were confused as to what Joseph would do to them.
 - (a) Would he want revenge?
 - (b) How would he get that revenge? By killing them? Enslaving them?
 - (c) The last thing that crossed their minds is what would happen next.
 - (d) "So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please"
 - (e) In ancient times, looking at a person of authority in the eyes or close up was thought to be a form of aggression.
 - (f) Joseph, asking them to come close up, was akin to making them almost equal to him. It was a form of endearment and intimacy.
 - (g) Certainly not what they would have expected from someone who had suffered what Joseph had endured for so many years.
 - (h) Why didn't Joseph take revenge?

- (i) Joseph knew God had planned his circumstances for something way bigger than himself.
- (j) “And **God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
Genesis 45:7-8
- (k) Have you yet come to a place in your life in which the issues that have brought you to where you are have had this type of meaning? We don’t need to become rulers, or people in positions of power. That’s not the point.

EMOTIONAL TUG-OF-WAR CAN...

2. Determine our willingness to live within God’s will!

A. “A man’s heart plans his ways but the Lord directs his steps”

Proverbs 16:9 NKJV

- (1) If we believe this verse, we have to properly handle the circumstances we endure, as it is God who directs our steps.
- (2) The Apostle Paul is someone who has something to say on this subject.

(a) *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in **harmony** with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **Repay no one evil for evil**, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, **never avenge yourselves**, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* Romans 12:9-21 ESV

EMOTIONAL TUG-OF-WAR CAN...

3. Make us want to tap out of the fight!

A. “And let us *not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*” Galatians 6:9
NKJV

- (1) It is mostly a common human trait to give up in the face of opposition. It is certainly counter-intuitive to continue on doing what is right, even in the midst of a “slap in the face”. However, for the son or daughter of God, it is a sign of growth and maturity in the overall being God is endeavoring to develop. It is His ultimate goal that His children “be conformed to the image of His Son”
- (2) “For it is ***better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will***, than for doing evil. For ***Christ also suffered*** once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that ***He might bring us to God***, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,” 1Peter 3:17-18
 - (a) The suffering we endure does not compare with anything our Savior endured.
 - (b) The suffering we endure (***if we can really call it that***) has an ultimate end goal, a goal well beyond our understanding! We should expect an ultimate outcome so wonderful that it should encourage us to press on,

nevertheless. And this is not because the Scriptures say we will “personally” benefit, but because it advances God’s Kingdom!

(3) “As for you, brothers, ***do not grow weary*** in doing good.”

2 Thessalonians 3:13 ESV

(4) “Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so ***that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.***” Hebrews 12:3 ESV

EMOTIONAL TUG-OF-WAR CAN...

4. Increase our faith!

A. When He summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, *He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. Psalms 105:16-17 ESV*

(1) Knowing that the life we live for God should increase our faith, insofar as our existence becomes eternally purposeful!

(2) Joseph's troubled life is cheered by the Psalmist, why?

(3) Because He (God), had sent a man ahead of them (his people), to provide them with life sustaining provisions.

(4) This was done so that God’s promises could be kept intact.

- (5) Now, doesn't knowing the totality of the "why" to your existence cause your emotional tug-of-wars to seem pointless?
- (6) Does the thought that your role, because it is not "*seemingly*" as important as Joseph's, cause you to believe your role does not matter all that much?

CLOSING

5. Review

A. Summary

- (1) It is incredibly important for us to recognize how we handle our emotional tug-of-wars because, ultimately, they will have an impact on how we ascertain our involvement in God's purposes. If the fact is that we allow them to force us to retreat into a "poor is me" victimized mentality, we will be weakened in our spirit, we will be forced to think less of ourselves, we will get the impression that our existence is purposeless, and thereby become worthless for all of God's purposes. It is a ploy of the enemy to cause the believer to believe such lies. Every soldier God has in His army matters!
- (2) Your rank in that army does not matter! What matters is, your total commitment to the cause, your willingness to be

placed in uncomfortable situations, and your capacity to grow beyond yourselves and into the image of His Son, *Y'shua!*

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Think of the worst situations you have encountered:

- A. On a scale from 1-10, how does that situation make your emotional meter go up?
- B. Have you tried to look at that situation with Spiritual glasses, instead of emotional ones?
- C. Having read through Joseph's life in its entirety, and seeing how he handled it. How does that challenge you today to handle your emotional tug-of-wars?
- D. Is it ultimately necessary for you to see a grandiose end purpose in order that you would lay down having to be recognized in your suffering?
- E. If your answer is yes, how will that fix what's already happened, and how will that diminish your anguish, pain, and heartache today?
- F. Does recognizing that God has seen all of your emotional tug-of-wars, and the fact that He came and decided to suffer along with you, change anything in your view on this matter?