

Forgetful and Fruitful

Genesis 41:41-52



**We Try Everything We Can to Protect Ourselves from
...The Pains of Life, But Eventually Life Strikes Hard**

The Greatest Pain of All Is the Pain of Grief

- **Grief is a Feeling of Deep Sorrow/ Mental Anguish Due to**
 - **the Loss of Persons, Position or Power**
- **When Grief Strikes, We Usually Go Through a Cycle:**
 - **Shock...**
 - **Protest...**
 - **Despair...**
 - **Resolution**

(Acceptance of the Loss and Reaffirmation of Life)



Perhaps you Have Experienced The Loss of...

- **Financial Security**
- **Health**
- **Career Opportunity**
- **Important Relationship**
- **Loved One Through Death Or Divorce**



Life is a Series Of Gains and Losses

There Is No Way To Live...

- **Without Experiencing Loss**
- **Victoriously Without Learning to Handle that Loss...**
...By Dealing With Grief

He Learned to Deal with Loss

What Did He Lose?

- **Family**
- **Brothers Hated Him**
- **Sold Him Into Slavery**
- **He Lost His...**
 - Childhood- Sold at 17
 - Job at Potiphar's Because of Pot. Wife
 - His Dignity Thrown into Prison for 13 yrs
 - His Freedom Because of a Lie



He Learned to Deal with Loss

How Do You Think Joseph Felt During All of This?

- Angry at His Brothers?
- Angry at God?
- Lonely for His Family?

Can You Imagine the Pain/ Loneliness as He Spent Some of Best Years of His Life- fr 17 to 30 in an Egyptian Prison?

But in All that Joseph Lost:

- He Never Lost His Faith
- In Egypt He Met The God Of Restoration



Great Loss Turned to Great Gain

• **To restore**= *"to bring something back into existence or effect; to bring back to a former or original condition; to put back in a former place or position; to reinstate; or to return."*

"He restores my soul" -**Ps. 23:3**

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds" -**Jer. 30:17**

"The Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel, though destroyers have laid them waste and have ruined their vines" -**2:2**

• **Jesus came** *"to seek and to save what was lost"* -**Luke 19:10**

• **We are Taught to Restore Those Who Have Fallen** -**Gal. 6:1-2**

• **God Promises to** *"make all things new"* -**Rev. 21:7**

The Blessing of Forgetfulness

The Name of Joseph's First Son, Manasseh

"God has made me forget all my trouble and my father's household"

Healing of Painful Memories...

- **Does Not Mean that He Could Not Recollect the Past**
- **But It Does Mean -He Could Remember It W-out Feelings of...**
 - **Crippling Grief**
 - **Loneliness**
 - **Despair**

The Brain Never Forgets Anything...

...it Permanently Stores All Information/ Experiences

Joseph was Enabled to Rise Above the Pain/ Move On w- His Life



He Overcame a...



○ **Dysfunctional Family**

- Blended Family- Diff. Children Born to Diff. Mothers
- Intense Sibling Rivalry
- Brothers Despised him, Plotted to Kill Him, Sold Him into Slavery
- Father Failed to Support Him-His Dream, so He felt Rejected by Family
- Not the Model Family

○ **Youth Crisis**

- Spent Teen yrs/ Young Adulthood in Prison w-out Family Nurture / Godly Role Models, Suffering Discrimination, Rejection/ Abuse

○ **Crisis of Faith**

- Although He Served God, Went Through Extremely Difficult Times

○ **Emotional Baggage**

- Deal with Intense Negative Feelings of Anger, Doubt/ Resentment

The Blessing of Forgetfulness

When You Add It All Up...

...Joseph had All the Excuses He Needed to Cop Out On Life

**But He Didn't -He Allowed God to Minister Such Grace to Him
...That He Forgot His Pain**

- **Joseph Confronts the Victim Mentality of Our Day...
...Which Blames Everyone and Everything**



The Blessing of Forgetfulness

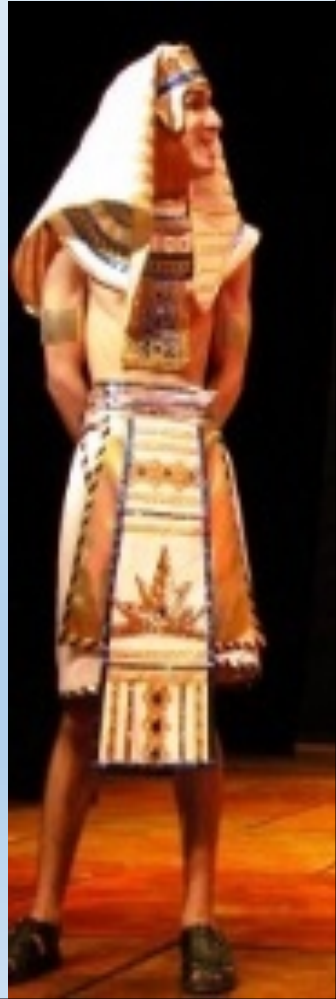
He Shines as a Testimony, Regardless of Our...

- Upbringing
- Environment
- Poor Role Models/ Influences
- Tragedy/ Loss

○ **God's Grace is Sufficient to Enable Us
...to Forget All Our Troubles
...Move On to an Abundant Life!**

○ **God is the Source of Inner Healing**

- God has Made Me Forget
- Release the Pain
- Forgive Those Who Hurt Me
- Recapture My Dream



The Blessing of Forgetfulness

What Do You Need to Forget?

- You've Carried the Memory Long Enough
- The Past Has Been an Weight Around Your Neck Too Long
- God wants to Bless You with *Manasseh*

...Enabling You To Forget Your Troubles



The Blessing of Fruitfulness

- **God Not Only Enables Us to Forget,
...but He Also Gives Another Blessing**

Ephraim=

"God has made me twice fruitful in the land of my suffering"

There are **Two Key Phrases:**

- **Twice Fruitful= *Joseph was blessed with a double portion***
- **In the Land of My Suffering= *the blessing of fruitfulness came while Joseph was still in the land of his suffering***

You Can Be Blessed Right Where You Are...

- **You Don't Have to Get Out of the Negative Circumstance...
...In Order to Be Blessed**



You Can Be Blessed Right Where You Are

We See this Principle in Scripture

Isaac was blessed a hundredfold in the year of famine -**Gen. 26:12**

"After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before" -42:10

Naomi said, "Don't call me Naomi [pleasant].... Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter" -Ruth 1:20

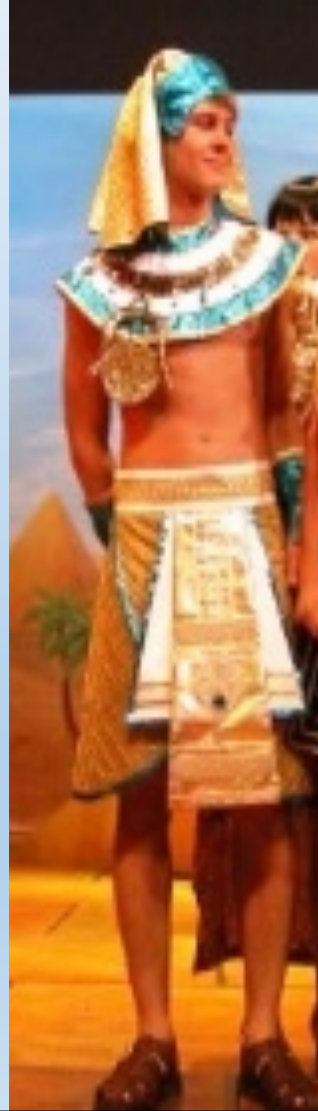
"The women said to Naomi: 'Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer.... He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age'" -4:14-15

"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten.... You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.... I will pour out my Spirit" -2:25-28

*"I chose you / appointed you to go/ bear fruit" “that will last” -**John 15:16***

The Blessing of Fruitfulness

- **What Have You Lost?**
- **Whom Have You Lost?**
- **Does Grief Weigh Your Heart Down?**
- **God Is Present in the Midst of Your Pain...**
 - ... and Offers You Two Gifts:**
 - **Manasseh**
(He will cause you to forget your pain)
 - **Ephraim**
*(He will give you a double blessing...
...in the land of your suffering)*



The Power of the Blessing

The Blessing Of Israel -Genesis 48

When Israel Blessed the Two Sons of Joseph

- He Blessed Ephraim as the Firstborn...
...when Manasseh was Truly the Firstborn
- Ephraim Would Be Blessed Above Manasseh
- God Wants Our Fruitfulness To Far Surpass...
...Our Troubles/ Trials



Forgetful and Fruitful

