

Leave Your Stuff!
Genesis 45:20

Background

- Joseph as a child had been sold by his brothers to a group of people who were on their way to the land of Egypt
- God was with Joseph, and through His providence, he was elevated from a prisoner in the land of Egypt to second in command of the nation of Egypt
- Reaping what they had sown, Joseph's brothers (10 out of eleven) had to travel to Egypt to get food because of a famine in their country, but Egypt had resources
- Joseph recognizes them when they came to the country but they don't recognize him

Background

- Joseph, after testing their honesty and integrity finally reveals himself to them in a private meeting, Genesis 45:4
- He told them that God had providentially used their evil behavior toward him to allow him to provide for all of them and their families during the famine
- When the Pharaoh of Egypt heard that Joseph was reunited with his family, he was happy
- He even asked Joseph to tell his family members to move to Egypt the land of plenty, with one exception for the move:
Don't Bring Their Old Stuff To Egypt (Genesis 45:20)



In Other Words

***Leave Your Old
Stuff Behind !***

2017

Observations

- Through God's divine providence, Jacob's brothers discovered their destiny
- Have you discovered yours?

Have You Answered These Heart Felt Questions:

Not What Do I Want To Be, But What Does God
Want Me To Be?

Not What Do I Want To Do With My Life, But What
Does God Want Me To Do With My Life?

- There is a story about a preacher who at the end of his sermon ask people to come forward if they wanted to dedicate their lives to Christ through their faith and Baptism
- Several stood and came forward, one was a man in his 70's who walked down with tears rolling from his eyes
- The preacher asked him why he was crying so much?
- The man said, ***“I wished I had responded to God when I was younger, I’m worried that I have decided too late to serve Him fully, and wasted too much time!”***

#1 To Leave Your Stuff Means, Don't Dwell On The Past

- Joseph didn't want his brothers to dwell on what they had done to him
- God would later speak to the Israelites about dwelling on their past and ending up in captivity

Isaiah 43:18,19, “Forget the former things, do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; you do not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

What Can Your Past Negatively Do To You?

- Weigh You Down! Joseph's brothers would have had a difficult time bringing their "old stuff" to Egypt (slowing the process of their trip)
- Hebrews 12:1-2, ***"Wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,***

Hebrews 12:1-2

....Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Leave Your Weights(Stuff) in 2017

Weight- Anything or anybody that would impede or hinder us from running the Christian race to win the crown of life

Weights or Sinful Burdens May Vary Individually

Pride and Vanity- Sometimes illness works against that

Worldliness (Dictates our speech, actions, attractions, likes, dislikes)

Ungoverned Temper-Has consequences

Unholy Attachments (People, Places, Things)

Besetting Sins- “*standing well around,*” us, “sins to which we are peculiarly liable”

“Sometimes the longest way around is the shortest route home”

#2 To Leave Your Stuff Means To Discover What God Wants For You


- Joseph's brothers had to be willing to move
- Remember Isaiah 43:18-19 *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in a wasteland."*
- *Joseph's brothers had to look at changing their focus from their problems to possibilities*

God Has a Destiny For You!

Remember Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”




“.....when I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me are written in your book before one of them came to be.”

- Before you were born, God decided when you would be born, and how long you would live
- He also designed you to be in a relationship with Him
- But you have to decide you want to be in that relationship

We Have To Be Willing To Leave Our Stuff To Fulfill Our Destiny

- Our destiny is not based on what we plan or desire, but on God's plan for us
- The only way we can fully discover God's plan for us is to willingly submit our lives, to His control
- Like Joseph's brothers, God has given us free will, and yes we can make choices and mistakes (jealousy and envy caused them to make a life changing error)

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- We can choose to follow a path that is only for our personal fulfillment and personal happiness
 - Looking only for our own satisfaction can lead to the dangers of drunk driving, school dropout, and unplanned or unwanted pregnancies
 - But God can still put a stream in the desert times of your lives
 - Remember, there is a difference between eating old food and stealing food
 - God's purpose for you and me is far greater than our self fulfillment, personal happiness or professional careers
 - Remember, who you are and what you do, have different meanings

#3 Joseph's Brothers Left Their Stuff And Prospered

- Genesis 46:26 says that including Joseph's father, Jacob, sixty six family members left their stuff and moved to Egypt and thrived in Goshen, the best part of the land, Genesis 47:6
- Exodus chapter one says that even after Joseph and his brothers died, their generations, the Israelites prospered and multiplied
- If you leave your immoral stuff behind, you will prosper too! Psalms 1

Isaiah 55:7

“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”



As We Close 2017:

*Identify Your
Stuff And
Leave It!*

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38