

**Outline #6** Finding Rest in our Family Relationships

Come to Me – Matthew 11:28-30

**1. Dysfunction at home**

- a) Describe some of the dysfunctions in the extended family of Joseph, son of Jacob? (See Genesis 16-36)
- b) Why would Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob be included in the list of great men and women of faith (Hebrews 11:17-22) when you consider all of their family dysfunctions?
- c) How did this history of family dysfunction impact Joseph? Genesis 37:1-4
- d) What action of Joseph increased the hostility of his older brothers? Genesis 37:5-11
- e) What was the result of this increased hostility toward Joseph? Genesis 37:12-28
- f) What lessons can we learn from the brothers' deception of their father? Genesis 37:29-35

**2. A tragic ending and a new beginning**

- a) What options did Joseph have after he was sold as a slave to the Midianite traders? Genesis 37:26-28, 36
- b) What evidence in the story of Joseph reveals a decision to trust fully in the LORD? Genesis 39:1-3
- c) Why is a personal decision to trust fully in the LORD so important when seeking to recover from the damage experienced in a dysfunctional family? Psalm 27:13-14, 34:1-10, 103:1-6, Jeremiah 17:14, 29:11-13

- d) How did Joseph's commitment to the LORD result in blessing, both for himself and for Potiphar's household? Genesis 39:5-6a

**3. Temptation to repeat family dysfunctions**

- a) What repeated temptation did Joseph face in the household of Potiphar? Genesis 39:6b-8,10
- b) With so many dysfunctional examples in his own extended family, how was Joseph able to maintain his moral integrity as a slave in Egypt? Genesis 39:9
- c) How did Potiphar's wife react to Joseph's response to her immoral proposals? Genesis 39:10-18
- d) What are your thoughts about Potiphar's treatment of Joseph after this accusation? Genesis 39:19-20
- e) I can hear someone shouting, "That's not fair. Why didn't God help Joseph!" How would you respond?

**4. Hope for the future**

- a) Why are the words recorded in Genesis 39:21 so encouraging, both for Joseph and for each one of us?
- b) How did the LORD honor Joseph, even in prison? Genesis 39:22-23, 40:1-22, 41:1-14, 15-16
- c) What Bible promises give us hope even in the most challenging situations? Romans 8:28, Hebrews 13:5, Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 43:1-5, etc.

