

The Life and Lessons of Joseph, Aug. 7-10

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

What They Meant for Evil, God Meant for Good

- We are attracted towards comfort and repulsed by hardship

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 16:24-25 (ESV) ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. We don’t know what’s good for us.

Genesis 37:3-4, 11 (ESV) (pew Bible page 31)

- Joseph (and his father Jacob) thought that they understood the plan.
- The enemy deceives us, often with comfort and false purposes.

Numbers 14:2-4, 8-10 (ESV) (pew Bible page 122)

- We spend a lot of time thinking about the future, hoping for good outcomes and dreading bad outcomes.

2. We don’t get to decide what evil is.

Isaiah 5:20 (ESV) Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Judges 17:6 (ESV) In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- Our world is not a tug of war between good and evil
- Reject Dualism
In theology, the concept of dualism assumes that there are two separate entities—good and evil—which are equally powerful. In “Christian” dualism, God represents the good entity and Satan represents the evil entity. But The Bible is clear, God has no equal.

An aside to another part of our world: Zoroastrianism

Isaiah 45:7 (ESV) I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.

God is Righteous AND Wrathful AND Gracious AND Loving

➤ God will strike at evil, but necessarily not in the way we want.

Jonah 4:1-2, 4 (ESV) ¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ²And [Jonah] prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

⁴And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

3. So how do we fight evil in a non-dual world?

John 18:10-11 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of the Gospel of Peace (provides readiness), Shield of Faith (extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one), Helmet of Salvation, The Sword of The Spirit (which is the word of God)]

Takeaways:

