

NO AVERAGE JOE: GOD'S GRACE CAN SEE YOU THROUGH

Part 1: Shaped By Grace

THE THINGS THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES

❖ Common influencing factors

- ◆ How you were raised has impacted you. Comply or rebel
- ◆ Life experiences both good and bad
- ◆ How you see yourself - a combination of 1 & 2

❖ The greater influence of God's grace

- ◆ His power in the new creation (spiritual transformation)
- ◆ The ability to connect with God's plan for your life (*Ephesians 2:10 NKJV*)

A CHALLENGING FAMILY STORY (*Genesis 37:2-8 NKJV*)

❖ A recipe for dysfunction

- ◆ 4 wives + 12 sons = blended family nightmare
- ◆ Joseph was a snitch - breeds bad blood usually the motive is selfish
- ◆ Jacob the father showed obvious favoritism - which breeds jealousy and nothing positive
- ◆ Joseph had a legitimate dream from God

❖ Two positive things that shaped Joseph's life

- ◆ He knew he was loved by his father - creates sense of security
- ◆ He knew he had a great destiny - gave him something to hang onto

❖ Life in the wrong direction (*Genesis 37:23-28 NKJV*)

- ◆ Stripped off his coat and thrown into a pit
- ◆ The pit was something Joseph could not get himself out of

RESHAPING YOUR LIFE WITH GRACE

❖ You are loved by your heavenly Father

- ◆ Joseph's coat revealed he was special to his father
- ◆ You are special to God (*Colossians 3:12 NKJV*)
- ◆ Now you are part of a select group - impacts thinking and actions

❖ You have a destiny in God

- ◆ Joseph's God-given dream gave him a glimpse of his future
- ◆ God's words to you give you a grace snapshot (*Philippians 2:15 NKJV*)
- ◆ God's Holy Spirit will also show you glimpses of God's specific plan for your life

❖ God still knows how to get His children out of pits

- ◆ Joseph was in the pit but the answer was coming
- ◆ When you know the "pit" is not your destiny it will spark hope - stabilizes you (*Psalms 27:13 NKJV*)