

The background of the slide is a photograph of the interior of a Gothic church. It features high, pointed arches, a large chandelier with multiple glowing lights, and a large stained glass window in the distance. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sense of depth and history.

The Past Will Always Haunt Unless....

Gen 50:

Pentecost Methodist Church


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Introduction



When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:



Introduction



‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.”



Introduction



When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?”



Introduction



You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.
(Genesis 50:15-21 NIV)

Memories

Past bad memory will always
haunt you.....

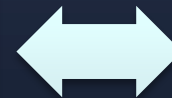
Relationship

(Sharing of information & energy between two or more persons)



Brain

(Processing of energy & information)



Mind

(Regulation of the flow of energy & Information)

What comes to your mind?

Dog

Relationship
(Sharing of
information &
energy between
two or more
persons)



Brain

Alsatian Dog
Biting Me



Mind

New Information
Baby Golden
Retriever

Our Past will always haunt us...

Parent who abused you

Child who rejected you

Boss who betrayed you

Friend who hurt you

Business associate who cheated on you

Spouse who disappointed you

God who angered you

Words & phrases will always haunt us...

“An adult’s preoccupation with own past e.g. how she felt abandoned or how her father was disappointed in her, can continually intrude itself onto her present perceptions.”

Dan Siegel

Past experiences will determine our
responses
to the present and future.

Unless we find value & meaning in past
bad experiences, we will always live
through the past.

The Past Will Haunt Us Unless...

WE RECOVER

WE RECOVER BY...

1. Calibrating the past candidly with wise perspectives

Father died: Brothers & Joseph had different perspectives.

Brothers were fearful.

Unwise company will reinforce our perspectivea negatively.

WE RECOVER BY...

2. Coming to terms with our negative emotions associated with past.

Brothers were plagued with guilt, fear & bitter about past.

Very easy and most natural to be engrossed in negative emotions.

Joseph's Brothers: Haunted by guilt, fear, & revenge

“15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?”

WE RECOVER BY...

In contrast, Joseph wept...

Why?

1. Hurt by his brothers' ungratefulness & unforgiveness.

1. Reframed his anger, revenge & fear into love.

WE RECOVER BY...

Anger & Fear are self-focused, Love is other-focused.

Joseph had made LOVE a way of life

- Potiphar
- Baker and cupbearer
- Pharaoh

Viktor Frankl Logotherapy

“There is one thing no one can take from me, and that is my freedom to choose how I will react to what happens to me.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**“What is happiness and
unhappiness?**

**It depends so little on
the circumstances; it
depends really only on
that which happens
inside a person.”**

Are you a carrot, egg or coffee?

Robert H Schuller

Every adversity is an
adventure.

Every pain is a pilgrimage.

Every trial is a trail.

Every problem is a path.

Every load is a road.

Every hurt is on the move.

It's leading you somewhere.

Where is it taking you?

WE RECOVER BY...

3. Centering our lives in God

- * Releasing every situation (good & bad) to God.
- * Fitting your life into God not fitting God into your life.

I have been too
focused on the PLAN
and not the PLANNER.

WE RECOVER BY...

3. By centering our lives in God

'Colored coat' –God gave the dream.
Potiphar: He saw God in the temptation.

"No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" Gen 39: 9

WE RECOVER BY...

3. By centering our lives in God

Whether in prison or palace, God was with Him because Joseph recognized the presence of God.

When we recognized God's presence, others will see God's presence in you.

WE RECOVER BY...

3. By centering our lives in God

Gen 39: “The Lord was with Joseph”
Obvious to pagan, people outside the
Kingdom.

V 21 – Prison warden show kindness

V 23 Potiphar raised him up to responsible
position

WE RECOVER BY...

4. By aligning our purposes to God's purpose

Recognizing that all that happened to us (good, bad & ugly) is not about you but for God's purpose - the saving of many lives.

WE RECOVER BY...

4. By aligning our purposes to God's purpose

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

- sold
- tempted
- forgotten
- remembered
- Elevated

St Anne of Austria

“God does not pay
at the end of every
day, but at the end,
He pays.

WE RECOVER BY...

4. By aligning our purposes to the purpose of God

Pyramid: Joseph's eyes were not on the pyramid. His eyes were on God. God is not the means but his terminal point.

The essence of triumph is that God's purposes are served not that we will be rewarded.



WE RECOVER BY...

4. By aligning our purposes to God's purpose

"Joseph found value and meaning in all his past because he aligned his plans to God's purpose."

(Jn 13: 34,35)

WE RECOVER BY...

5. Reaching out to those who still live in fear & even may reject our love

'So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.'" And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.'

WE RECOVER BY...

5. Reaching out to those who still live in fear & even may reject our love

True test of finding value in the past is when we can give assurance and act kindly.

We are willing to love despite the risks of being bitten & rejected again.

WE RECOVER BY...

Memories kept by grace remember only the good in others.

Grace opens our hands in generosity, while others (those who are guilty of scheming) are tormented by grace

“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.”

GK Chesterton

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”

Oscar Wilde

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies.

At the end all his disciples deserted him.

**On the Cross he was utterly alone,
surrounded by evildoers and mockers.**

**For this cause he had come,
to bring peace to the enemies of God.**

**So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion
of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes.**

**There is his commission, his work.
'The kingdom is to be
in the midst of your enemies.
And he who will not suffer this does not want
to be of the Kingdom of Christ;
he wants to be among friends,
to sit among roses and lilies,
not with the bad people but the devout people.'"**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of
Faith in Community***

Anyway

People are often unreasonable,
illogical and self centered; Forgive them
anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of
selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some
false friends and some true
enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank,
people may cheat you; Be honest and frank
anyway.

What you spend years building,
someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,
people will often forget tomorrow; Do good
anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough; Give the world the
best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,
it is between you and your God; It was never
between you and them anyway.

Conclusion

God uses broken vessels.

Close every door to me!