

"I'm Too Young"

Joseph Vs. Nature AND Nurture

Gen. 37-50



The phrase "Nature versus nurture" is a psychology term related to whether heredity (genes) or the environment most impacts human psychological development (behavior, habits, intelligence, personality, sexuality, aggressive tendencies, and so on).
 Today we are going to consider Joseph Vs. Nature AND Nurture. Through

Joseph's life, God shows us that we can live for Him regardless of our surroundings or upbringing. **You can live right, even when others don't do right.**

Joseph had some difficult things to overcome. Things that none of us can understand or relate to. You may have difficult things to overcome. There may be some who truly think evil against you, but God still wants to use you. Tonight, I want us to look at four things that Joseph overcame throughout his life. First of all...

I. **Joseph overcomes his poor** _____.

A. His family was _____.

<u>Leah</u>	<u>Bilhah (R)</u>	<u>Zilpah (L)</u>	<u>Leah (Take 2)</u>	<u>Rachel</u>
Reuben	Dan	Gad	Issachar	Joseph
Simeon	Nephtali	Asher	Zebulun	Benjamin
Levi				
Judah				

B. His family was biased.

You can live right, even when others in your family do not do right.

II. **Joseph overcomes his personal** _____.

A. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.

B. Potiphar's wife falsely accused him.

1. Potiphar knew Joseph was _____.

2. Potiphar imprisoned Joseph.

C. The Butler forgot Joseph.

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You can live right, even when others do not treat you right.

III. **Joseph overcomes his potential** _____ . (Chapters 37-50)

What is the earthly fleshly response to all these things that happened to Joseph? He had the potential to blow up. To go "postal." To give up. To start "taking care of himself." "No one else is doing it, so I have to." When sold into slavery and when sent to prison...

A. Joseph responded to betrayal with _____.

B. Joseph responded to a high position with _____.

"Genesis 37-50 is filled with mistreatment, rejection, injustice and misrepresentation. Yet in spite of all the reversals, we see godly responses. Joseph exhibits a remarkable absence of fear, anger and bitterness. How does he maintain his sanity, sweet spirit, stability and security?"¹ How can you maintain those things even if people around you mistreat you?

1. What makes man _____?
2. Where did this insecurity come from? (Gen. 3:10)
3. What are man's remedies for insecurity?

I feel safe only when... _____

You can respond right, even when others do not treat you right.

IV. **Joseph overcomes his probable** _____ . (Chapters 42-50)

A. Joseph _____ with his brothers.

B. Joseph finds his security in the _____ of His God.

You can live right, even when others do not do right to you. Joseph had many obstacles to overcome on his ladder of success. He did not have an easy life. He overcame his family background, his personal betrayals, his potential backlash of vengeance, and his probable bitterness. If he had given up, a lot of people would have understood. He did not. He persevered because his most prized possession was a right relationship with his God. If there are many or few obstacles in your life, you can still joyfully serve the Lord if your most prized possession is a right relationship with Him.

¹ Jim Berg. "Prisons, Pits, and Palaces"