

## YOU WILL RISE AGAIN

-Joseph genuinely cared for the welfare of those under his care and **did not shy away from using the gifts God had given to him to bless others.**

-God-given gifts are powerful tools that when put to **unselfish** use by generously loving and serving others, could lift anyone from the pits of desperation to a happy life of service to others even under trying circumstances.

-Whenever we find ourselves beaten down, consider what God has put in your hands and choose to use it for the good of those within your sphere of influence.

-Love the people and serve them with humility.

### **8. Joseph finally catches a break?** – Genesis 41:16, 38-41

-The Butler remembered Joseph when Pharaoh had a dream.

-Joseph counsels Pharaoh to avoid loss of life he must prepare for famine.

-When the gods of Egypt and the magicians failed, Joseph gave God created for interpreting the dream.

-God will help us rise from whatever hardship we face, through the power of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 12:8**).

-Joseph did not brood over all the disappointments, he chose to serve.

### **9. What was Joseph's greatest test?** – Genesis 42:6-7

-At the peak of his success, Joseph was now face to face with his tormentors, a perfect opportunity for revenge.

-Had his character be refined enough for this moment? (See Gem of Light)

### **10. Did Joseph choose to rise again?** – Genesis 50:20

-Joseph proved what he was made of by turning the opportunity for revenge to a **moment of forgiveness, restoration, and healing.**

-He made it to be what God intended for every individual or family in strained relationships, a moment of unity and togetherness.

#### **CHOOSE TO COOPERATE WITH GOD BY:**

1 – Constant prayer and study of God's Word

2 – Trusting God completely

3 – Submitting in obedience to God's leading in our lives

4 – Choosing to love and serve others unconditionally

5 – Recognizing the gifts God has given us, and choosing to use them to bless others

**6 – Remember all things are temporary (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)**

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Washington, Uniontown, Mon Valley 02/26/2022

### **Scripture Reading:**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** – <sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup>while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Opening Hymn – #652 – Love at Home

Closing Hymn – #626 – In A Little While We're Going Home

### **Gem of Light:**

“An upright character is of greater worth than the gold of Ophir. Without it none can rise to an honorable eminence. But character is not inherited. It cannot be bought. Moral excellence and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. The most precious gifts are of no value unless they are improved. The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime and must be the result of diligent and persevering effort. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them.” {**Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 223**}

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## **INTRO:**

-Many of us are healing from past wounds. The COVID Pandemic has created incalculable heartache. Families have been tested, faith has been tested and many of us carry huge scars. Our endurance has been overstretched and we are still crying out, “WHO WILL HEAL OUR WOUNDS?”

**-We can look to the past, in times like these, and gather instructions on how to best navigate our present reality.**

-More than two thousand years ago, **Jesus warned His disciples** in John 16:33, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

## **PRAY**

### **1. How did Jesus assure His disciples when they were facing the extreme challenge of Christ’s death?** – Matthew 20:19

-He assured them He **WOULD** rise again. They doubted, they questioned, but sure enough Jesus’ promise held true.

- *“He burst from the tomb and rose triumphant over death and the grave.”*  
*{The Truth About Angels, P. 209}*

### **2. Christ rose again, but can we?** – 1 Corinthians 15:22

Even through the worst of tragedies and enemies, death, we can have assurance. But, before death we too experience situations that knock us down. Jesus helps us repeatedly to rise up victoriously by being resilient.

-Resilience, like a rubber band, is essential to life.

-At times we may linger in the aftereffects of catastrophe, short with some, longer with others. However, we can rebound.

### **3. How did Paul describe resilience?** – 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

**-Like sweet music in our ears—in the middle of afflictions—we can choose to hear the sweetest sound from our Lord Jesus Christ saying: ‘you will rise again.’**

-After every crushing situation **there can be a rising again.**

**-If not in the physical realm, then surely in the spiritual domain.**

**-When this keeps recurring, habits are formed, and character is built.**

**-We are being recreated** into the original image of God.

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### **3. What created a rift in Jacob’s family?** – Genesis 37:7-9

-At the **age of 17**, Joseph, the most beloved son of Jacob, **received a perplexing dream** which he probably did not recognize was from his Creator God.

**-The jealous brothers, in hearing the dreams, only served to aggravate the jealousy and prevailing hatred** that existed because of the preferential treatment he received from his father.

-Joseph’s brothers conspired to kill him, Reuben intervened.

-Joseph was mercilessly thrown into a pit and sold into slavery to Ishmaelite traders.

### **4. How did Joseph choose to react to catastrophe?**

Genesis 39:1, 2

-Joseph landed in Egypt and served Potiphar, the Captain of the guard.

-Jacob’s beloved son, now a slave in a foreign land with no hope of ever seeing his family again.

**-Joseph determined that whatever he was given to do, he would do it as to the Lord. Joseph served with excellence and integrity, remaining faithful to his God. He did not want to disappoint God.**

### **5. When faced with temptation, how did Joseph respond?**

Genesis 39:9

-Because Joseph never gave up on God, God never gave up on him.

-Because of Joseph’s obedience to God, he was accused of rape and ended up in prison. Imagine how devastating this blow must have been.

### **6. Did Joseph lose hope in prison?** – Genesis 39:21-23

**-Joseph did not resist imprisonment.**

-There is **no record that he waged an intense legal battle to defend his innocence.**

-Despite the unfair circumstances he found himself in, **Joseph did not allow what was beyond his power to bury him in despair.**

-Joseph excelled with the same integrity that landed him in prison, becoming a leader of prisoners.

### **7. How did Joseph treat the other prisoners?**

Genesis 40:5-7

-He sought opportunities to help them, as in the case of the butler and the baker.