

Living By Faith Not Sight

“Reaching The Hard-Hearted”

Genesis 42:1-28

We ALL Know **SOMEONE** who has **ONE**...(Hebrews 3:12-15)

God Graciously “**THAWS**” the **Hard Hearts** of Joseph’s brothers. (Genesis 41:56-57)

To **REACH** the **Hard-Hearted**, sometimes God will allow us to experience...

1. **A POSITION OF EXTREME NEED. (vv.1-5)**

- The “7 years of **Great Abundance**” have **Come & Gone** & the “7 years of **Famine**” has **Hit FULL FORCE**...(Genesis 41:53-55)
- Now, **Facing** the **Possibility of Starvation**, God has **the brother’s Attention!**
- Sometimes **God Pinches** our lives in the area of **Material Need** so we will **Address our SIN. (Luke 15:11-24)**
- **GOD** will go to **Extreme Measures** to **REACH** People.

2. **THE PAIN OF HARSH TREATMENT. (vv.6-16)**

- The **Temptation to Exact Revenge is Normal.**
- **Not Only** did Joseph **FORGIVE**, I think he **FORGOT. (41:50-52)**
- **Don’t Let the PAST get in Your Eyes.**
- Joseph was **BIG Enough** to **FORGIVE. (vv.9-16)**
- **God Allows** the Experience of **PAIN** to **Break a Hard Heart.**

3. **THE PRESS OF SOLITUDE. (vv.17-24)**

- Many times, the **ONLY WAY** we **GROW** as Christians is by **Spending Time ALONE with God...(vv.21-24)**
- In v.21, the brothers took the **1st Step** in **Overcoming their Hard Hearts** by **Taking Personal Responsibility** for their **SIN.**
- **Sin ALWAYS has Consequences...**

4. **THE PROOF OF GOD’S PRESENCE. (vv.25-28)**

- In v.28, these **Hard-Hearted Brothers** are **Sensing GOD At Work** in their circumstances.
- Are there times **WE** go through our daily lives **Not Giving God a Second Thought?**
- The **Death of Jesus** was a **CHOICE God made to SHOW YOU just HOW FAR** He was **willing to GO to WIN your HEART.**
- **YOU** may be the **PROOF of God’s Presence** in someone else’s life...

- Are you **FAITHFUL**?