

LIVING THE LIE

Last week we studied the dysfunctional family of the Patriarch Isaac and how it negatively affected the entire family.

In spite of all the pain it produced in the life of Jacob as a member of this family, he was unwilling to change this dysfunction and brought it into his own family. Therefore we have four generations of dysfunctional families in the Patriarch families of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the sons of Jacob - until Joseph.

It did not change until Joseph broke from the cycle and took it upon himself to help them break their cycles.

In today's lesson, we will focus on one episode in the family of Jacob that started the process towards breaking of the cycle. It is a famous episode to many students of the Bible. Joseph's brothers attempt to murder him but were talked out of it and chose rather to sell him into slavery.

Apparently the scene was so traumatic that it left a **large imprint on the souls of the brothers** for 20 years –

(Gen.42:21) “Then they said to one another, ‘Truly we are guilty concerning our brothers, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.’”

You can image the impact it must have had on the soul of Joseph, the victim. Yet after 20 years, the victim is healthy mentally, socially, spiritually, and family wise, but Jacob's family is still a wreck! Joseph is healthy in spite of additional adversity (testing) in his life.

This lesson will study five aspects how LIVING A LIE affected the life of the dysfunctional family of Jacob.

It will teach us how difficult, but NOT impossible it might be to heal a dysfunctional family. It will also teach how important this change is to God

(1 Cor.14:33) “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

1. The original lie that started it all is recorded in Gen.37.

The brothers created the lie without technically saying it. They presented a scenario of Joseph's possible disappearance. Jacob drew a false conclusion that took them off the hook which they accepted to live as a lie (Gen.37:31-36).

In evading telling the truth, they sentenced themselves to 20 years of emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual pain. They chose to Live the Lie as twisted truth with the facade of living a normal life. This is conformity to the world and OMCD (Rom.12:2).

2. They attempted to hide the lie, sweep it under the rug, push it out of their mind's thinking that it would magically go away.

They were able to **Live the Lie** until a similar traumatic episode occurred to them. Then a guilt- ridden conscience emerged and the brothers became upset and distressed (Gen.42:21) [guilty and distress upon us].

The harsh treatment by the Egyptian Prime Minister triggered guilt in the brothers of Joseph after 20 years of **Living the Lie**.

It is at this point that God intervened to bring it to resolution (Over-ruling Will). They are forced to face the truth and take ownership of it – “And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32)

3. When past painful experiences get attached to OMCD Living the Lie, it becomes more difficult to take ownership of divine truth.

Ownership will come from repentance (metanoia) [a change of mind] (2 Tim.2:24-26) and NMDV thinking and behavior (Eph.4:22-24) and the directive Will of God. The Directive Will of God has been lost amidst the conflict of the family (Gen.37:5-11).

Notice how OMCD thinking went from Joseph’s suffering to the brothers suffering (Gen.42:21).

4. The brothers OMCD thinking is based upon the belief that their present suffering is God’s way of punishing them for their past sins.

Once again they are wrong and have accepted to live another lie while avoiding the truth.

God does not punish people for their sins past, present or future - whether unbeliever or believer. God put all the sins of mankind upon Jesus Christ while on the cross. He died one death for all sins for all time (Col.2:13; Heb.7:27; 10:12; 1 Pet.3:18).

God is not punishing them as they did Joseph (Gen.42:21). Divine discipline is directed towards believers for correction towards fellowship with God and not retribution from God (Heb.12:5-11; 1 John 1:7-9).

Human solutions to spiritual problems created more problems. Lies don’t set us free only divine truth sets us free. It is like picking at the wound rather than seeking healing.

5. All of this guilt and remorse has not brought repentance, confession of sin, fellowship with God, NMDV thinking, acknowledgement of the original truth, or freedom (John 8:32).

They must **COME TO THEIR SENSES** regarding Living the Lie before they will put off OMCD and will put on NMDV thinking and behavior (Luke 15:17).

Confession of the sin behind the lie will begin the healing process and NOT the discussion of it. Discussion without confession is like picking at the wound and ignoring the need for healing.

(Ps.51:2-4) **David** – “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.”

(Ps.103:12) “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

(Isa.38:17b) “For You have cast all my sins behind your back.”

(Isa.43:25) “I, even I, am the One who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” (Heb.8:12)