



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM

7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Difficult Family Situations

It is heartbreaking when children suffer because of the sinfulness of parents. Many of the ills of society, when it comes to the family, could be alleviated if parents would be more responsible in being grown-ups and parents to their children.

Joseph came from a home riddled with difficulty. His father Jacob carried the burden of deceiving his father, Isaac, and his own brother Esau in a scheme to receive the family blessing. His mother was also privy to the situation and initiated the deceit. Jacob was finally able to meet his brother face to face and offer a present of blessing to him (Gen. 33:10). Joseph, during his life is having difficulty with his brethren. Because Jacob has showed favor to Joseph over his brothers, they have grown to despise him. Joseph is also telling his siblings about dreams he is having. In those dreams, his brothers are bowing down and paying obeisance to him, and this does not sit well with his brothers.

His brothers become so enraged, they are ready to kill Joseph. Instead, he is placed in a pit and sold to Ishmaelite merchants traveling to Egypt. There, he is given a job of being the overseer of the house of one of Pharaoh's officers. The wife of this officer tries to seduce Joseph but he refuses, and she falsely accuses Joseph of trying to defile her. He is cast into prison and helps interpret dreams for Pharaoh's baker and butler. The baker is killed and the butler is restored to his position. Two years later, Pharaoh has a dream and the butler remembers Joseph. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and is placed second in command in Egypt.

The account of Joseph's life should help us realize no matter what has occurred in our lives, we can overcome them with the help of God. We can come

through any family difficulty we may be facing as well, as long as the Lord is with us. Joseph reflected on his life and stated toward the end, "*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people*" (Gen. 50:20).

-K.A. Pugh

You have undoubtedly seen a little child who just could not pass up walking through the mud puddle. In fact, you probably remember being told not to walk through the puddles when you had your good clothes on, but you did it anyway. However, as you got older, you knew the importance of keeping those nice clothes clean and looking nice. You had been told many times not to walk through the puddle and did it anyway. But as an older child, you walked around the puddle. You held yourself back.

The same thing happens spiritually. God wants us to live in such a way as to keep our lives spotless and clean. Yet, babes in Christ frequently splash through the puddles. They have not learned the value of that stain free life. As we grow and mature spiritually, we begin to understand what God has done for us and what it means to live spotless before Him. We learn to avoid the puddles in life because we love Him and want to please Him.

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. Ps 119:101 ESV

Hold back your feet today and observe God's word. Keep your garment spotless before Him.

TLM

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