

Discussion Questions & Quotes For August 11 thru 17, 2024

—“*ACTION STEP: Present yourself to God and ask Him to give you the faith to believe that you can experience genuine change in your attitude and behavior.*” —**Erwin W. Lutzer from: *How to Break a Stubborn Habit***

—“Like sin itself, Satan appeals to the senses. He originated & perfected the art of disguising evil as good.” —**Chuck Swindoll**

—“*In Genesis 31–50, Jacob’s family is a picture of a corrupt family, often following an irresponsible course. The final glimpses we gain from this portrait display a certain degree of hope, but regardless of this, there’s some irony that it’s a lady who posed as a prostitute that becomes one of the few bright spots in the family collage.*”

—**summarizing a statement by Allen P. Ross**

—“The Israelites went down to Egypt a large family, and four centuries later they came out of Egypt a large nation. Since the tribe of Judah is the royal tribe from which the Messiah would come (Genesis 49:10), anything related to Judah is vital to the story in Genesis. Without this chapter, you’d wonder about finding Tamar and Perez in our Lord’s genealogy (Matthew 1:3).” —**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“*When we study the various interesting events revealed in the book of Genesis, it’s easy to become so focused on what happened to Abraham & Sarah, Jacob & Esau, or Joseph that we miss the deep theological truths that are practical and relevant to our lives in today’s world. Beyond anything else, Genesis displays for us that God’s sovereign authority. He orchestrates all things that take place in our lives to work together for good to all who love Him and are called according to His purpose!*” —**GAD**

—“The only successful path to find victory over sin comes from a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.” —**Erwin Lutzer**

—“*Since it takes faith to please God, (Hebrews 11:6) we also need to realize that there is personal significance in your relationship with God, not in how much money you earn, how beautiful you look, how many toys you own, how many trophies you collect, or how much territory you conquer and control.*” —**Chuck Swindoll**

—“When we grasp the sovereign authority of God in & over everything, from the broadest galaxy to the smallest grain of sand, we gladly submit to His will for our lives. He’s the captain. He’s in control. His eye scans the maps and He knows what’s best for us.” —**David Jeremiah**

Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Once again, this week’s study will focus our attention on the life of Joseph, but since it’s based on Genesis 38, it’s interesting that Joseph isn’t mentioned in the biblical text. Some Bible scholars consider this chapter to be an abrupt interruption to the narrative about Joseph’s life. However, it reveals details that are absolutely essential to our ability to understand all that God was doing in His sovereign plans & purposes that eventually led to the birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. Basically, Genesis 38 demonstrates in vivid terms the reason why God’s plan for Israel included the years living in Egypt. Please notice the quote Warren W. Wiersbe on the other side of this page To prepare for these questions, please grab your Bible & the sermon notes.

—**1}** *Let’s begin with some personal analysis about our relationship with our contemporary culture. How well do we understand the effect our culture has on our personal views & values? To what extent are we conditioned (changed) by the way our society, the media, & government have shifted their views about what’s morally appropriate/acceptable? Both Abraham & Isaac sent their sons out of Canaan to find a wife. Jacob didn’t do that and to make matters worse, his son Judah separated himself from his family and married a Canaanite woman. Take a close look at 1 Corinthians 15:33; Ephesians 5:1–13; & James 4:4–10. What do these passages teach us about pursuing friendship with those who don’t share our biblical values? How do we walk the fine line between being tempted to fit in with our society & being so isolated that we aren’t able to share our faith with those who need it most?*

—**2**— There’s an important balance between avoiding the corruptive influence of sin & ignoring the benefits of being an ambassador for the Lord. First, we need a firm foundation in our faith so we can make wise choices between what’s right & what’s wrong. Based on Romans 12:1–2 & 1 Corinthians 10:12–13, how can we avoid being corrupted by the evil world around us? How can we maintain a firm grasp on the benefits of God’s grace without ignoring the reality that there are consequences that we face when we fall into sin?

—**3**— *Why is it necessary for us to understand that God doesn’t tolerate sin & never condones it? Here’s a thought-provoking question: Where’s the line between living under God’s grace without becoming too soft on our view of sin & living a holy life (set-apart from what’s evil) without becoming judgmental and legalistic?*