

PREPARED FOR SERVICE

Genesis 50:15-21

Things we can learn from Joseph:

1. _____ things happen to _____ people.

Matthew 5:45, "...for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (NAS)

2. Bad things happen for a _____.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (NIV)

3. God allows _____ to go through trials to prepare you to _____.

James 1:2-4, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (NIV)

2 Cor. 1:3-4, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (NIV)

Philippians 2:6-7, "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being." (NLT)

To focus on others I must have at least two things:

1. _____.

Have a big picture perspective.

Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (NIV)

*The entire world – with _____ minor exception – is composed of others.

2. _____.

Develop real maturity.

Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)

Albert Schweitzer:

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."