

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

January 27, 2019

Issue 4

GAME CHANGERS: THE MORAL CHARACTER OF JOSEPH

Ronnie Scherffius

Most are familiar with the phrase *game changer*. According to the *OXFORD ADVANCED LEARNER'S DICTIONARY*, a *game changer* is "a person, idea, or event that completely changes the way a situation develops." An example of a game changing *invention* from history might be the steam engine or the light bulb. In our modern age, the Internet is an example of a game changing *technology*. If we consider sports one might consider Bob Gibson a *game changer* - literally! In 1968, the St. Louis Cardinals' pitcher so dominated batters (268 strike outs and a 1.12 ERA) that the following year the league lowered the pitcher's mound by five inches!

In the Bible we read of a number of men and women who, either for their actions, words, or example, brought about great changes that affected the lives of others. Because of his moral character, Joseph was a game changer like no other! When we think of Joseph our minds conjure thoughts of a favored son, a colorful coat, prophetic dreams, being sold into slavery, or his elevation to great prominence in Egypt. But Joseph was a man of great *moral character*.

What is moral character? The word *moral* comes into the English language from a Latin word meaning "manner of conduct." *Character* is from a Greek term that carries the idea of an "engraved mark" and was often used of the "imprint on the soul." In time the word came to refer to a "defining quality of a person." Thus, moral character is the manner of conduct that defines the true quality of person.

When we consider Joseph's moral character we immediately recall his response to the sexual advances of Potiphar's wife: "There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9) How many today, faced with a situation of compromising their integrity, have cast away self-control and run headlong into sin? But Joseph was a man of integrity and quickly offered three reasons for maintaining his moral character: 1) the woman who approached him was the wife of another man; 2) the act she was soliciting him to commit was "great wickedness"; 3) such an act would constitute sin against Jehovah God! Rather than yielding to sin (and a sin from which he would certainly escape immediate reprisal) Joseph changed the game and forever provided humanity with an example of winning over the adversary: "And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out" (Gen. 39:12). Perhaps the moral character of Joseph was in the mind of Paul when writing to Timothy as he encouraged "flee youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22) - not only sensual desires, but also pride, ambition, and, the desire of power over others that such a position might bring.

Indeed Joseph was a game changer, but the impact of Joseph's moral character was not limited to denying a heathen woman's immoral solicitations. Few who achieve the high

position which Joseph attained would refrain themselves from retribution and vengeance against his enemies. How many nights might we suppose Joseph laid sleepless as his mind replayed the day when his life was changed forever: stripped of his coat, cast into a pit, sold to strangers, forcefully removed from the love of this father, and delivered into bondage in a strange land? By what plot and through what scheme might he inflict misery upon his brothers who through envy and hatred desired nothing for him but death? Yet, the record shows Joseph was a man of forgiveness rather than vengeance: "And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. ⁵Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:4-5). Joseph's character was marked by the qualities of a kind, merciful, and loving God. He was also fully aware of God's sovereignty over man and of God's right alone to exact vengeance for the wrongs of man (Gen. 50:19).

Joseph was a game changer. By his moral character he not only maintained his purity but has influenced and emboldened countless others to flee from an adversary who seeks their destruction (1 Pt. 5:8). Exhibiting the character of his God - Joseph chose the path of peace over payback and remission over revenge. How many lives could we change if we would but follow his supreme example! Are you a game changer? Whose life will you change by imitating the game changing character of Joseph?

Finding Something To Be Thankful For

A minister was known for always thanking God in his public prayers. One Sunday morning was particularly terrible and gloomy. A church member thought to himself, "Certainly the preacher won't thank God for such a terrible day." When the preacher

got up and began to pray, he said, "We thank Thee, O God, that every day is not always like this."

Anyone can be thankful when life is good. It really takes some effort to be thankful when life is difficult. Being thankful is a practiced skill. It's a mindset we have to constantly work on. When we do, we are likely to find many, many wonderful parts of our lives to give thanks for, especially the small ones we take for granted.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

God wants us to be thankful people. Finding something to be thankful for may take some time, it may take some creativity, and it may even send us into deep thought. No matter what it takes, let's practice the habit of being thankful.

-Selected-

Ladies' Day 2019



"The Proverbial Woman"

Speaker: Wendy Gibson

(From Riverside Church of Christ in Corpus Christi)

MidTown Church of Christ

5901 US Hwy 87N

Victoria, TX 77904

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Registration: 9 - 9:30 a.m.

Lunch Provided

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of January 27, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Manny Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Lupe Escojido
Assist: BJ Davis, Sammy Scherffius, Isaac Jobes

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Bryce Dolan

Open/Close Building: Steve Randle

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Steve Randle

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

2019 Pocket directories are located in the foyer.
Two per family please.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

LES DALTRY, who is still in the hospital in San Antonio; JOYCE NEEL, in the passing of her daughter Kim Neel-Farthing; ARCHANA VERMA, in the passing of her brother in law Harish Reddy; MICKEY TISUE, who is at PAM rehabilitation; JANIE MARTIN, in the passing of her cousin, Russell Daniel; RICHARD HILL, recovering from stint procedure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 2: Ladies Day hosted by MidTown
Feb: 22-24: Southwest School of Bible Studies: Student Lectures hosted by MidTown. Potluck luncheon will follow morning services and there will be a 1pm afternoon service in lieu of the 5pm service.

AREA EVENTS

Feb. 28-Mar. 3: Arise: Spiritual Growth workshop @ SW church of Christ
Mar. 29-31: Gospel meeting @ Adams Street church of Christ. More info on the bulletin board in hallway.
Mar. 30: South Texas Youth Lectures @ Adams Street . More info on the bulletin board in hallway.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Trenton Jenkins (27); Billy York (29); Christopher Bryson (31)

Happy Anniversary: Lupe & Virginia Escojido (31)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Dee Gilpatrick
Ann Pantel
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of January 20, 2019

Bible Class.....94
A.M. Worship.....104
P.M. Worship.....69
Wednesday Bible Study.....75

Offering \$3,086

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Second Coming of Christ

Christ to Return.....John 14:1-3
With a shout.....1 Thes. 4:16
As thief in night.....2 Peter 3:9-10
Mat. 25:31; James 5:7; Acts 17:30-31



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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