

**Putting the Pieces Back Together: A Lesson in Unity**  
**Sunday, October 16th**

**Unity . . . ?**

Being well fitted; each piece appropriately placed

“Unity of purpose” = growth = impact → Israel  
to be a blessing to the world

**Two Truths:**

Unity of purpose connects us not just our past,  
but to our future as well.

*As significant as Joseph’s generation was, he knew God would  
continue working in the next.*

Unity of purpose is not held together by the strength of our grip, but on our  
faithfulness to our calling in Christ Jesus.

*Joseph’s confidence was based on God’s faithfulness to His word,  
not on the generation to come.*

**Two Responses:**

Capture a vision of greatness that extends beyond our horizon.

*Joseph called his family to be coddled by the comfort of the past,  
but to be challenged by the journey ahead.*

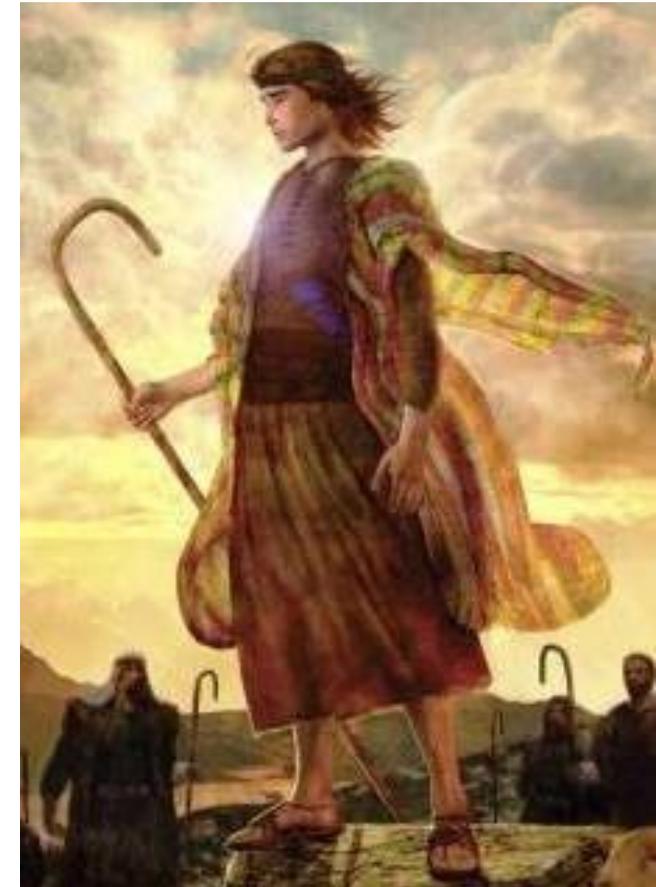
Live out that vision today.

*Joseph let them know they were free to build upon the foundation he  
had laid. He knew that the nation’s departure from Egypt would not be  
a rejection of the sacrifice he made, but a response to move to a land of  
blessing just as he had done in his day.*

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The audio version of this sermon series can be found on the FBC  
website under Sunday Sermons: Breaking What is Fixed.  
[www.fairfaxbaptist.com](http://www.fairfaxbaptist.com)

**Breaking What Is Fixed**  
**Lessons From the Life of Joseph**



**Sermon Series Listening Guide**  
**September-October 2016**

**Learning to Move from One Chapter to the Next**  
**Sunday, September 11th**

A couple of preliminaries first . . .

*God has a purpose for you.*

*God's purpose grows us.*

1. Every chapter of our lives prepares us for the next.
2. Some chapters of our lives are easy, some are difficult –they tend to rotate.

Remember Joseph's journey: home – slavery – Potiphar's house – jail – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Egypt

3. Stay focused on where you are, because that's where the preparation is.  
At home Joseph learned: servanthood & humility;  
at Potiphar's he learned integrity & stewardship;  
and in jail he learned compassion for others.
4. The "classroom" does not last, but the lessons do.
5. Every chapter of our lives grows our effectiveness in God's plan, and grows our influence in the lives of others.

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**My Life Matters: A Lesson in Grace**  
**Sunday, September 18th**

***Humility . . .***

Yielding to God's purpose and place for me in His plan

Result: **A life of Service**

Allows me to be a part of something greater than myself

*Joseph learned to be a servant in the jailhouse so he could serve from the palace.*

***Discernment . . .***

The perception that God is at work around me, and in me

Result: **Self Control**

Allows me to guard that which is vulnerable

*Joseph knew that disobedience would not lead to his destiny.*

***Steadfastness . . .***

Waiting on God's timing as He grows me through His plan

Result: **Patience**

Allows me to learn from life's adversities

*Joseph learned that setbacks, and other apparent career ending circumstances, could be productive in the long-run.*

**Dying to Self: A Lesson in Forgiveness**  
**Sunday, September 25th**

**A Question of Faithfulness -**

Death to self begins with the commitment to be faithful to the Father.

*Think about Joseph's first real temptation . . .*

*to conceal and conform to what his brothers were doing.*

**A Call to Stand Alone -**

Death to self requires that we learn to let go of what we believe is due us.

*Think about the first "right" Joseph was forced to release . . .*

*his very place in the family – all that the robe and his standing meant.*

Standing Alone: the willingness to grow beyond peer dependency.

It is not based on our reaction to others,

but on our love for the Lord.

**The Soil from which Forgiveness Sprouts –**

Death to self germinates the seed that allows godly relationships.

*Think about his reaction to his bothers when they came to him for help . . .*

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**Putting the Pieces in Place: A Lesson in Reconciliation**  
**Sunday, October 9th**

**Reconciliation –**

*to make consistent or compatible; to make friendly again.*

*making "sense" of our past in light of what God is doing in our lives in the present.*

**The Big Picture –**

The significance for which God shapes us reveals itself as we yield to His **purposes** for our lives.

*Note the words Joseph used when reunited with his brothers . . .*

**The Heritage Principle –**

Our significance is never found in a vacuum; we are a part of a **story already in progress**. We can learn to see our past as more than a series of bygones, but as a process out of which God shapes our legacy.

*Note what Joseph named his children . . .*

**A Future Focus –**

The story of which we're a part is **not finished!** Here is where **forgiveness** plays its role. We can never be fully focused on where God is taking us, if we refuse to **release** fallen aspects of our past.

*Note what Joseph didn't say to his brothers . . .*

*Listen, too, to his final request . . .*