



Self-Centered or God-Centered Selfish or Self-Forgetful

1. Self-centeredness brings pride or despair. (37:1-11)

James 1:14-16: ...but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

2. Pride and despair bring hatred, contempt and destruction. (37:12-36)

Philippians 2:3-8: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

3. Repentance is the key to becoming God-Centered and Self-Forgetful. (38:1-30)



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Discussion Questions

1. What has God been speaking to you through the stories of Joseph at 17 and the story of Tamar?
2. What evidence is there to show whether a person is self-centered or God-centered? Is the God-centered life an easier journey? What makes it better if not easier?
3. Why is selfishness so destructive? Can you share a time when your selfishness destroyed something? How has, or how could, God redeem that situation?
4. Why is it so easy to become self-centered? How could you catch yourself when you begin to slip into this selfish mode? What can you do to stay out of this mind-set?