

Baggage- Confronting the Pain of Life

Genesis 50:15-21

Consider the immense pain that Joseph went through:

Fractured and Dysfunctional. Genesis 30:20-24

Gen 30

- 20 And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun.
- 21 And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.
- 22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.
- 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:
- 24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

Partial and misguided. Genesis 37:3

Gen 37

- 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

Hostility and hatred. Genesis 37.4

Gen 37

- 4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Dismissed and derided. Genesis 37:5-11

Gen 37

- 5 ¶ And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.
- 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:
- 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.
- 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.
- 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.
- 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?
- 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Abused and abandoned. Genesis 37:20-28

Gen 37

- 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.
- 21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.
- 22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.
- 23 ¶ And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;
- 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.
- 25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.
- 26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?
- 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.
- 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Accused and tortured. Genesis 39:13-20

Gen 39

13 ¶ And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,
14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:
15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.
16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.
17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:
18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.
19 ¶ And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.
20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

Forgotten. Genesis 40:21-41:1

21 And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:
22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.
23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him.
1 ¶ And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

Baggage endures and increases with time.

Baggage reveals character or the lack thereof.

Baggage either cripples or enhances.

Baggage destroys or inspires purpose.

How did Joseph manage this pain and recover in his life? Genesis 50:15-21

Gen 50

15 ¶ And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.
16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,
17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.
18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.
19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?
20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.
21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

He wept and grieved. Vs 17

17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. **And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.**

Grief is a necessary process.

He understood the place of God. Vs 19

19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

Let God take care of the injustice.

He saw the good amid pain. Vs 20a

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Seek to understand how God can use the hurt and pain.

He considered the importance of eternity. Vs 20b

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, **to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.**

Let God use your pain for eternal purposes.

He embraced and embodied grace. Vs 21

21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. **And he comforted them,** and spake kindly unto them.

Seek to forgive and let it go.

Joni Erickson Tada

Joni Eareckson Tada was born in 1949 in [Baltimore, Maryland](#), the youngest of four daughters. Her parents were named John and Lindy Eareckson.^[1] Joni was named for her father, John Eareckson, so her name is pronounced like "Johnny".^[1] Her father participated in the 1932 [Olympics](#) as an alternate for the United States wrestling team and was honored as a Distinguished Member of the [National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum](#) in 1996.^{[2][3]}

With the example of her parents, Tada lived a very active life all through her growing up years. She enjoyed riding horses, hiking, tennis, and swimming. On July 30, 1967, she dove into the [Chesapeake Bay](#) after misjudging the shallowness of the water. She suffered a fracture between the fourth and fifth cervical levels and became a [quadriplegic](#) (or [tetraplegic](#)), paralyzed from the shoulders down.^[1]

During Tada's two years of rehabilitation, according to her autobiography *Joni*, she experienced anger, depression, suicidal thoughts, and religious doubts. However, during occupational therapy, she learned to paint with a brush between her teeth and began selling her artwork. She also writes this way, although for most writing tasks she relies on voice recognition software. **To date, she has written over forty books, recorded several musical albums, starred in an autobiographical movie of her life, and is an advocate for people with disabilities.**^[1]

Tada wrote of her experiences in her 1976 international best-selling autobiography, *Joni: The unforgettable story of a young woman's struggle against quadriplegia & depression*, which has been distributed in many languages. The book was made into a 1979 feature film of the same name, starring herself. Her second book, *A Step Further*, was released in 1978.^[4]