

Undeclared by Dysfunction

1. Mourn the Dysfunction

- a. The pain that it causes (think of how Joseph mourned what he lost. I am in mourning for all that we have already lost – seniors in high school and college “losing” their last year. Seniors in nursing homes losing contact with family. All of us losing our personal connections.
- b. Mourn your part in the dysfunction
 - i. What did Joseph do to cause the dysfunction?
 - ii. What did Jacob do?
 - iii. What did Joseph’s brothers do?
 - iv. Is our forced isolation or forced combining of families revealing dysfunction that was always there – because we are all the envious older brothers, we are all the arrogant Joseph, we are all the Jacob who closes his eyes to the problem and is afraid to deal with it.
 - v. What to do with your part? – Jesus is the sin offering – Romans 8 & Mark 10:45. Put your hands on the Savior’s head. Join the long line of people who put their hands on the head of the Lamb of God. – Our baptismal font, the lamb who was slain on the church door in France.

2. Celebrate the Dysfunction

- a. That God is working in it. For Joseph – to keep many alive
 - i. Sabbath time/God time
 - ii. Family time
 - iii. Open hearts like never before? Opportunities to serve?
 - iv. Joseph didn’t know for years. Be patient. Some of it we may never see.
- b. That God is using it to prepare us for greater service.
 - i. As we become servants – seeing pain and hurt in new ways. 2 Corinthians 1
 - ii. You are not “worthless” as the devil wants you to feel. The more you are struggling, the more he is preparing you to serve and care for others in ways that you could not previous.
- c. One last thing – that picture of the seven seals on the lamb in that French church – the future – He is worthy to open the seals. He knows the future. Dysfunction now makes us long for the absence of dysfunction in heaven: No more pain or sorrow or tears or death. For the old order of things has passed away!

How long will it last?

April 6?

8 weeks?

July August?

Years?