

Southern Adventist University

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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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Blessed to Bless

Joseph Khabbaz

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The Main Thing Devotional: Blessed to Bless

Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. - Genesis 47:7

God will often place people in our lives who are in need because He is aware of what we lack. During the online Vespers service last Friday night, Dr. Alan Parker led several interviews with students, alumni and community members impacted by the recent tornado that tore through Collegedale and surrounding areas. One of the students interviewed was John Boone, who reached out to the Chaplain's Office to find out how he could support those affected. Just at that time, a family in Hamilton County had contacted the University Church sharing they were in desperate need of assistance. John drove more than two hours to help a family he had never met. When John was asked why he decided to help, he said, "Moving a tree out of someone's yard isn't saving their life...but I want people to know that there are people out there that care." Rather than seeing other people's needs as an interruption, John saw it as an invitation to be a channel of God's grace.

Discerning a need in other people's lives is one of the greatest invitations we can receive from God. As we look at the world around us, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and fatigued by the seemingly never-ending problems of others. Rather than seeing difficulties that others face as a drain to our resources, why not ask God why He placed you in a position to help those who are facing hardship.

In the story of Joseph the famine brought his betraying, and now starving, brothers right to his doorstep. The famine that produced hunger was reflective of the emaciated relationship that existed in God's covenant family. Although Joseph's brothers needed grain, Joseph was starving for healing with his dysfunctional family. Joseph's brother's desperate need of food was the conduit of forgiveness and reconciliation within the heart of Joseph. God changed Joseph's perspective by revealing that the purpose of His extravagant blessings served as a means to show grace to others, even his enemies. Even though Joseph's poverty was not material, Joseph was still destitute of a relationship with his family. God used the tragedy of the famine to bring about a family reunion through Joseph's compassion.

Reflection

How has God been blessing you? Could it be that He is constructing a "food bank" in your own life so that He can provide for others through you? Although you may not have significant material needs, what deeper longings may God be seeking to fulfill within you during this time?

Prayer

God, help me to see the needs of others around me as a personal invitation from You. Grant me the strength to not become weary of doing good, for by serving others, I see the needs in my own life that you promise to fill.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

- Join us for online Vespers this Friday at 7:30pm by using the following [link](#). Chaplain Anna Bennett will be sharing a powerful message titled, "*Jesus is My Comfort.*" Chaplain Anna will lead a reflective reading of Scripture by modeling how we can practically connect with God on a deeper level during these times of isolation.
- Following online Vespers, Bryan Arvelo (a campus ministries student and Theology Major) will be leading a virtual Afterglow LifeGroup via Zoom where students can interact with one another and talk more about how the sermon applies to their life personally. Simply click the following [link](#) at 8:30 pm this Friday night to join.
- Share your prayer requests or praises with us via text message using your mobile phone. **Text-to-Pray: 423-281-8996.**
- You are encouraged to follow the hashtags #SDAUnited and #SAUprays so you can connect with other students from all over the country and internationally to see what others are doing for spiritual encouragement.
- While we cannot meet in person because of social distancing restrictions, we encourage you to make an appointment to **talk online** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or desiring to grow spiritually.
- Join us next week for online Vespers as our VP for Spiritual Life, Joseph Khabbaz, shares a message titled, "Making it on Broken Pieces."

Every blessing,

Joseph Khabbaz

VP for Spiritual Life and Chaplain
Southern Adventist University