

# **Genesis 42:36-43:14**

March 18, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

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**Gen. 42:36** - "Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. *All these things are against me.*"

## **1. Take a realistic look at the situation.**

**2 Timothy 1:7** - God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and *a sound mind.*

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## **2. Change what you can change; accept what you can't change.**

Reinhold Niebuhr wrote: *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I can't change; The courage to change the things I can; And the wisdom to know the difference.*

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## **3. Consider how the situation impacts others.**

**Philippians 2:4-5** - Don't look out only for your own interests, but also *look out for the interests of others*. Have the same *attitude* in you that was also in Christ Jesus.

**John 18** - Jesus and His disciples entered a grove of olive trees... The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards. With blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove... Jesus asked them, "Who are you looking for?" They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "If you're looking for Me, then *let these men go*."

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## **4. Don't play the blame game.**

Wayne Dyer: *"All blame is a waste of time. No matter how much fault you find with another, and regardless of how much you blame him, it won't change you. The only thing blame does is to keep the focus off you... You may succeed in making another feel guilty about something by blaming him, but you won't succeed in changing whatever it is about you that [needs to be changed]."*

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### **5. Don't procrastinate.**

Author and mountain climber, W. H. Murray: *Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative and creation, there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in ones favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. I have learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets: "Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now!"*

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### **6. Put your trust in God.**

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** - This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they know Me and understand that I'm the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things."

**Isaiah 49:23** - "Those who trust in Me won't be disappointed."

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**Romans 8:31-32** - If God is for us, who can be against us? He who didn't spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things?

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