

LIFE'S BEST TEACHER

Genesis 30:27

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "Rote" is doing or saying something over and over and over until it is memorized or becomes a habit and therefore learned. However, there is something that every person undergoes that teaches better than any school teacher, that reveals things in a split second, that can reassure, challenge, frighten, endear, cause maturity, and shows one's true character. Life's best teacher is ----- personal EXPERIENCE.

I. REMEMBER JOSPEH AND ALL THAT HAPPENED TO HIM? (*Genesis 50:19-20*)

- The things that Joseph experienced revealed to him and to us today that God cares and works in our lives.
- That God cares for us and works in our lives is a wonderful reassurance for us today.
- Joseph was disliked by his brothers, eventually sold into slavery by them. He had every right to hate them and to be bitter.
- Joseph had learned a lot in the years that went by and when he met his brothers again finally, he had no anger nor hate and did a very noble thing for them, for his entire family by bringing them into Egypt, where he had risen to much power. (*Genesis 50:19*)
- Joseph experienced hardships and learned from them and became a good person and others benefited from what he had learned from his experiences.
- Have others benefited from what you have learned from your experiences in life?

II. LIFE'S EXPERIENCES TAUGHT SOLOMON A LOT (*Ecclesiastes 5:7*)

- Solomon is said to have been the wisest of all in his time and his wisdom came from what he had experienced in life.
- Experience taught Solomon that the world didn't provide anything that lasted very long.
- Because of all his experiences Solomon was often sought out and asked advice of and he wrote down many of the things he experienced.
- Solomon had experienced pleasure, wine, wealth, everything the world had to offer.
- Because of what he had learned from his experiences in the world, Solomon learned that God was the only unchangeable, reliable and dependable "thing" in the world.
- Solomon concluded from his experiences in the world that the world must be dealt with as a "means", as a "tool" to gain higher things and to not let it control him.
- What has your experiences in life taught you so far?

III. THE PRODIGAL SON LEARNED A LOT

- A young man got tired of living on the farm with his older brother and his father, so he decided to leave and go "seek his fortune" in the world.
- He was and is not the only person who wanted to do that and ended up doing that. There are people of all ages who want change.
- Any time a person lets go "morally" he/she will end up as the prodigal son did, in a "pig sty" kind of life.

- The young man (prodigal son) learned by his experience that life wasn't so bad on the farm and that his father loved him in spite of his behavior.
- Learning that God loves you, has patience with you and forgives you is one of the greatest experiences that a person can have, but each person must experience all this for him/herself personally.

IV. PAUL LEARNED A LOT FROM HIS EXPERIENCES (1 Corinthians 13:13)

- Paul led a very difficult and hard life experiencing joy, displeasure, imprisonment and much pain.
- Paul concluded from all that he had experienced that the greatest thing in life was love.
- Paul learned to have great faith in the Lord and he stated that he "knew in whom he believed.."
- He also learned that there was nothing to be ashamed of in being hopeful and the more one experienced a relationship with the Lord, the more hope.
- Paul concluded from his experienced that there was coming a time when all would come to an end and faith wouldn't be needed for all could be seen and that there would no longer be a need for hope for all things would over with BUT there would never be a time when there would be no need for LOVE.
- A lot of things come and go in one's lifetime, experiences change perspective but some things will never change no matter what. What have you learned from your experiences in life that will never change?

V. JOHN ALSO EXPERIENCED A LOT IN HIS LIFE TIME (1 John 2:15)

- One main thing John learned from his experiences in life was that the world was not worth loving.
- Experience taught John that things of the world come and go, but God and the Lord Jesus will be around forever.
- Of all the disciples, John was the last to die and he died, in a sense, of old age. He had a lot to pass on to others that he learned from his life's experiences.
- John encouraged everyone (from his experiences) to love God, live for Him and do His will for whoever does that lives forever.
- John learned not to get caught up in the matters of the world for those things come and go.
- What have you learned about the world so far in what you have experienced?

CONCLUSION:

1. We can learn by reading, listening, watching, feeling, thinking, but the best way to learn and never forget is by personal, hands on EXPERIENCE.
2. It is one thing to duplicate, to mimic, to copy, to imitate but that's not first hand knowledge. However when a person experiences for him/herself then it is as real as it can ever be.
3. Nobody can be saved for anybody else. Nobody can walk with the Lord for anybody else. Nobody can repent for anybody else, etc. Each person must EXPERIENCE for him/herself his/her own life. We cannot live anybody else's life except our very own.
4. So, forgetting about everybody else, how is your own, personal, private relationship with the Lord?
 - What has life's experiences taught you so far?