

March 30, 2014

# Teaching Outline

Series: Experiencing Greatness  
Week Six

How many of us are trying to run the race of life like we are \_\_\_\_\_, but we're \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gen 50:14-21 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. <sup>15</sup> But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us <sup>17</sup> to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. <sup>21</sup> No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

\_\_\_\_\_ was required before the \_\_\_\_\_ could come down.

**NLT Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.

The extent to which we get rid of our \_\_\_\_\_ is the extent to which we will experience \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

This means that our past can longer \_\_\_\_\_ us, \_\_\_\_\_ us, or \_\_\_\_\_ us!!

What is in our life that God is calling \_\_\_\_\_, but we don't \_\_\_\_\_?

**Heb 12:2-4 (NLT)** <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. <sup>4</sup> After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

**Eph 4:30-32 (NLT)** <sup>30</sup> And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

**Matt 6:14-15 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

"If I am not willing to be a \_\_\_\_\_ person, why should God treat me as if I am?"

**Phil 3:14 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**Hebrews 12:1b** And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.

Jesus makes living a life of greatness \_\_\_\_\_!!

Prayer:

"Lord, we really do want to live a life of greatness! We can see how important it is to be forgiving. But we also know how hard it can be. Heavenly Father, again today we ask for your help. Please help us get rid of everything that slows us down or would disqualify us. We want to finish strong! Amen!"