

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 3

“1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. 2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. 6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. 7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? 10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.” (Genesis 39:1-10 KJV)

When we read *Genesis 39* we notice that after the tragedy that Joseph passed through and received from his brothers that he was taken to Egypt and was sold as slave to an Egyptian man; that he moved to a place that was totally strange to him, and his master who bought him was a high figure and a person that might be difficult to work with, for he was an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of his guard, but in spite of that Joseph as we read God was with him and even he was a prosperous man in that place, *“2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.” (Genesis 39:2 KJV)* God was with Joseph, prospered him, and gave him success in whatever He did. **But also for sure that God would not be with Joseph and give him success unless there were good characters in Joseph who responded to God's grace and love.** From the events that we studied from the life of Joseph in *Genesis 37* we can conclude the following good characters that helped Joseph to be a successful person and they are good lessons that we can apply them in our lives.

1. Forgiveness: Joseph was a forgiving person. Joseph did not carry bitterness and anger and nurse grudges in his heart toward those who harmed him. He did not focus on those who caused him damages and did not put in his heart and mind to revenge and pay those back who did evil against him. His forgiveness to them opened his eyes to see what the good things that God had prepared for him to do. He was able to see that God had put him in a new place that he can thrive and build his life again. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Forgiveness toward those who hurt you will heal your wounds; it will also open your eyes to see the new blessings that God had given you.**
- **Forgiveness would heal you and will give you the initiative to thrive and to progress forward to achieve what God wants from you to achieve.**

2. Humbleness: Joseph was a humble person. Joseph was willing to restart his life as a slave, as a worker and servant in a house. Joseph as he humbled himself in God's hands and accepted the new place and the new scenario that God placed him in, then the Lord lifted him up; he was sold as a slave, and was servant to his master, but while he was working there his master noticed the following: *“3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.” (Genesis 39:3 KJV)* Therefore as the hand of God was upon Joseph he found grace in the eyes of his master as he noticed that God had prospered all the works of his hand and so he promoted him over all his servants and made him overseer over his house: *“4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.” (Genesis 39:4 KJV)* **Many are unwilling to start from low position or less income job, but in such way they are missing God's provision and His grace for them.** Even after Joseph was well established in Potiphar's house he was betrayed by Potiphar's wife and that spoiled all what he had build. But even when he was put in prison he still did not give up but he started from the beginning. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Be humble and accept the scenario that God had placed you in.**
- **Be humble and accept the new low income job that God had given to you.**
- **Be humble and like Joseph willing to start from the scratch.**

3. Willingness to be humiliated: Joseph was humiliated by his own brothers when they threw him in the well. He was also humiliated when his brothers used him to make money. He was also humiliated when the Ishmeelites sold him as a slave to Potiphar. He was humiliated when he was accused falsely by Potiphar's wife and he was humiliated when he was thrown into prison and stayed there long time. **Such kind of humiliation we may pass through and the Lord will allow that to happen. God wants us not to focus on the hurt we receive but on His grace that can sustain us and support us in days of troubles and in times of need.** Many who pass through humiliating circumstances they don't accept that and for them such things should not happen. Instead of accepting that as normal they react and go into grief, and they withdraw themselves and become unwilling to adjust and allow God to heal their wounds. People who are unwilling to be humiliated you hear from them such expressions, *'I don't think I can forgive!'* *'I cannot forget what had happen!'* *'How they can say that _____ or how they can do that?'* *'I don't think I can recover!'* **If you among such people and react as they react your healing will delay and progress in life will be far from you.** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Be like Joseph, forget what had happened and don't look to your wounds but look to the healer our God who can heal and compensate you all your losses.**
- **Be like Joseph and don't look backward but look forward to the new way and the road that the Lord had paved for you, the way of success and look forward to the prosperity that is waiting for you.**

4. Loyal and submission to his master: By virtue and criteria, being the son of Jacob and a believer and worshipper of God Joseph was higher than Potiphar and even higher than the jailer when he was placed in jail. But as he was put under them he was willing to listen and obey their instructions. *“13 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.*

For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (Romans 13:1 KJV) Arguments and quarreling with your boss will not serve you or help you. It will just make life more difficult. If your master is cruel and non-understanding the best thing you do with him is to keep calm and silent and continue to do your work in a proper way and pray for him as Jesus advised us, **“28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:28 KJV)** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be loyal and submissive to the secular authority that God had placed over you in your working places and in the countries that you are living.
- Be prayerful for those secular and government authorities who are despitefully using you.

5. Diligent: God would not grant Joseph the success unless he was diligent worker and active in doing all his duties and responsibilities. God will not bless lazy people with success. Joseph would not be successful unless he was punctual and keep time and appointments. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You need to be diligent and active in your work, and God shall bless the works of your hands.
- Be the same like Joseph as a person who knows well his job and what he needs to do.
- Be punctual and keep time and appointments.

The Word of God teaches us the way how to live our lives in a successful way. There are commands the Word of God declares and dictates we need to heed and follow in our lives so that His grace will have its full effect and impact in our lives. From the real story of Joseph we can learn more important spiritual truth and facts, and in applying them we will find ourselves prosperous and successful.

6. Faithfulness and living in the fear of God: Joseph was faithful to God in keeping the commands of God alive and true in His life. He showed his responsible behavior to keep his identity as a Hebrew person belonged to God by keeping himself pure, refusing to sin against God, **“11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm 119:11 KJV)** As well as he showed his faithfulness to God by working hard and in a responsible way in his assignments in the house and in the field. He was a trust worthy person, he knew his responsibilities and he was doing them. He showed he was a responsible and dependable person following what God’s Word says, **“22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Colossians 3:22-25 KJV)** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You do the same in your life; to fear God and refuse to do wrong and fall into sins and wrongdoings that would displease God.
- You need to be faithful in your work by being hard working, disciplined, punctual, effective and fruitful in your services.

- And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ

7. Trusting God: Joseph trusted the Lord and His Word. He showed that by his willingness to continue to do right and obey God’s Word and commands even when things went wrong or in opposite direction. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You also do the same during trials and struggles. Trust God and continue in this life to fully obey Him and walk in His ways.
- When things go wrong continue to pray and cry to God, trust Him that He will do something good to you to uphold you with His grace.

8. Capability to adapt: Joseph brought up in a Hebrew family and brought into Egypt to live in an Egyptian house. There were lots of things different that Joseph faced in his new atmosphere like the difference in the language, dress, type of food, and other differences in culture habits and faith. Joseph was able to adapt to the differences but when it comes to sin Joseph did not adapt himself with people ways in living in sin. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Your capability to adapt with the new culture and atmosphere that God is bringing you is a key for success.
- But be aware that adaptation to the new atmosphere does not allow you to sin as the people of the world sin and live away from God.

9. Be a good steward: Joseph was a good manager to what had been entrusted to him. To be a good steward he was a man of wisdom. He knew how to handle people and knew how to speak to each and every person. Joseph, as we can read in **Genesis 39** even spoke well to the woman who kept on tempting him to follow her in bed and sin against God. He told her the following: **“ ... Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:8-9 KJV)** He spoke the truth in love to her; he preached to her the gospel by showing her the sin clearly and directed her to obey God. As well as being a steward, included under Joseph care were finances, and for sure Joseph managed finances well. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You need to be good steward of all what had entrusted to you from people, finances and other material and spiritual resources.
- You need to be wise how to speak and how to present the gospel to each and every person put under your care.
- One of the important aspects of person’s life is finances, and to know how to manage finances is a key for success.
- You do not need much money for success but rather you need wisdom of how to manage and handle what you have.

10. Skillfulness: Joseph used all his skills to manage the works in the house and in the field. Therefore as he was successful in that, he was put in charge of everything in the

house and in the field. The Word of God tells us that about Joseph's master that he, "*left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. ... (Genesis 39:6 KJV) Skills are needed to overcome difficult situations and will bring success, "10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct."* (Ecclesiastes 10:10 KJV) So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- The same to you if you want to be successful then be diligent and from this time on start to use all the skills that God had entrusted in your hand.
- Put in your mind that God had good plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Therefore obey God's Word and apply what it says and you will be prosperous and successful.

11. Standing firm against temptations: One of the important points that accompany success is the style of high discipline. Joseph was highly disciplined and knew his responsibilities very well and kept his commitment toward God, toward his employer and toward the people and the society that God had placed him in. We need to ask, what are the temptations that Joseph had exposed to and was able to exercise self-control and overcome.

A. Sexual immorality: Joseph was exposed to that through the temptation of his master's wife, "*... And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. 7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, ...*" (Genesis 39:6-8 KJV) Joseph was handsome and well-built but he knew well that if God had blessed him with that, he should not use it in a wrong way. Sexual immorality is one of the common and dangerous temptations that man or woman would be exposed to. The question is how to overcome that? You must be a clear minded; God's plan for you that one day you will have a family. God will provide for you the right partner when you are ready and well equipped for marriage. Joseph was able to overcome because he put in his mind that sex is only for married people and marriage only possible when he is in a stable position and well provided. Those who had prepared their minds in such a way will not find that difficult to resist temptations. The fear of God will impart wisdom and understanding in your life that you will be aware that premarital sex is an effective tool to destroy your life. Sex has a responsible aspect that God gave for reproduction. And reproduction will only be possible when the atmosphere ready for that. When the man is ready spiritually and well provided materially, God shall provide the right partner and he will have a family. The Bible tells us the following: "*7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*" (Psalm 37:7 KJV) Many they go for dating and many they go for courting, boyfriend and girlfriend because they don't fear God and they don't wait upon His perfect timing. But they will fall in sin and they will carry the consequences of their sins. Don't be envious of those people who do such. As well as there is no enjoyment in such style of living, sure they will pay the costly price of their sins. Wait upon God and be patient, He has a good plan for you; he is preparing you and is going to bless you with a family life. What Joseph did to overcome that temptation? *First:* He refused to go with the woman. *Second:* He refused to be with her or near her, "*10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*" (Genesis 39:10 KJV) *Third:* He was diligent to attend his duties and busy with his works. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be like Joseph and put in your mind that sex is only for married people and marriage only possible when you are in a stable position and well provided.
- You need to prepare you mind for action, you need to refuse and to say 'No' to sin and temptations.
- It is not enough to say no, but also you need to go away. Because intimacy reduces self-control; in fact intimacy is an indicator of reduction of self-control.
- One way to overcome temptation is to be yoked and get involved in doing your responsibilities. Fear God, submit fully to Him and devil will go away from you. "*7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" (James 4:7 KJV)
- Change the atmosphere and be away from the opposite gender. As much as you can walk and live with Godly people. Be with your gender, boy with boys, and girl with girls to avoid temptations. Avoid watching movies and the TV programs and YOU tube that will ignite your feelings and emotion with the opposite gender. Be with your Bible and listen to God and obey Him.

B. Money: As Joseph was in charge of the house and the field then sure there was money affair circulating under his care. And it was not reported that he stole money. One important aspect and key for success is your honesty in regard to the money of others that put under your care. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Don't be tempted to steal or to use some of it for your personal benefit, that money is not for you, it was only put under your care to manage it well.
- You need to fix your eyes on Jesus who will provide you with all your needs and give you your food at the proper time.
- Don't look to the people or put your eyes on their money that will not help you.
- Trust God, work hard and be diligent and God will provide for you.
- As a good steward for money you need to tithe your income and give to God your firstfruits and your offerings.
- Act faithfully and keep good record if your work involves money transactions.

C. Abuse of power: As Joseph was in charge then different people would be under his authority. It was not mentioned that Joseph used his authority to abuse and to take advantage of those who were under his care. The Word of God tells us the following, "*9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.*" (Ephesians 6:9 KJV) "*8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*" (1 Peter 5:8-9 KJV) So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You do the same, as the Lord is lifting you up don't be tempted to abuse and exploit those who are under your supervision.

My dear and beloved: Let us now review the characters that we had expounded today from *Genesis 39* about the life of Joseph and let us check ourselves what we lack from the following characters:

1. **Being a person forgiving to others who hurt you.**
2. **Being a person humble in attitude.**
3. **Being a person willing to be humiliated.**
4. **Being a person loyal and submissive to your master.**
5. **Being a person diligent in your works.**
6. **Being a person faithful to God and living in the fear of the Lord.**
7. **Being a person who is trusting God and relying fully on Him.**
8. **Being a person capable to adapt.**
9. **Being a person who is a good steward for time, finances and with people.**
10. **Being a person having skillfulness.**
11. **Being a person highly disciplined and standing firm against temptations of sexual immoralities, money abuse and abuse of power with people.**

*** Now allow God to mould you and work in your life. * Ask God to deal with you so you can develop what we lack of these characters. * Humble down before Him and accept all the discipline, the trials and the hardships that He is allowing in your life so He can build you up in the way that you will be a successful person.** Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death on the third day to give us eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that opened my eyes and helped me to see clearly what life is and what are my responsibilities and the tasks that are ahead of me in my daily life that I need to do and accomplish precisely. Lord thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me and had showed me what are the things that causing me failure. Lord thank you for all the lessons that I learned in this message from the life of Joseph. Lord thank you for all the material and the spiritual blessings and the privileges that I had received from you and thank you for all the life training experiences that you allowed me to experience. Lord thank you for all your teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments that we received from your Word.

Let us confess and renounce our sins. Confess and repent of your laziness and your various excuses to escape doing your responsibilities. Repent of your un-forgiveness toward the people who hurt you. Repent of your pride, carelessness, arrogance, anger, immoralities, worldliness, and unfaithfulness, Repent of withholding yourself and your non willingness to offer yourself, your life, your gifts and skills and all the materials you have to God. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and your lack of full trust in God. Repent of being bad in handling your money and wasting your resources. Repent of abusing the people and being not careful in handling them in the light of God's Word. Repent of being choosy, obstinate and not willing to comply with the plan of God for you. Repent of your bad example to others. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Repent of your yoke with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Lord I am coming back to you, I repent and turn away from the following sins _____.

Lord as I repent of my sins, Lord I ask you to help me to recover and to go back to the good plan that you have for me. Lord lead me and help me to live and do your will in my life. Lord start to mold me in the way that you desire, to make me the person that you want me to be. Oh Lord let the life of Joseph and what you did to him come also in my life

as I repented of my sins. I commit myself to serve you and live my life for you. Lord I commit myself to all the lessons and the instructions that we received from the life of Joseph. Lord I commit myself to work with you to have the characters of having forgiveness to others, being a humble person, willing to be humiliated, loyal and submissive to my master and to the government authorities, diligent and faithful in my work, living in the fear of God, trusting you and relying fully on you, and being a person capable to adapt and a good steward for time, finances and people, being a person having skillfulness, and being a person highly disciplined and standing firm against temptations of sexual immoralities, money abuse and abuse of power with people. Lord give me self-control, patience, long suffering, love, gentleness, kindness and perseverance so people can see Jesus in my life, and I will be able to overcome all the temptations and to wait upon you till you fulfill your good plan for me.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins, and who committed themselves to walk in your ways and follow the good example of Joseph and the teaching we received in this message. Lord I pray that you will work greatly in their lives. Lord restore them and make them fruitful and successful in their lives. Lord I pray that you will use them to serve you once again and to do what is good and right in your eyes. Lord I pray for those who are weak among them that you will watch over them and help them to overcome and be strong in your grace, and that they will start to obey and apply your Word in their lives. Lord sustain them and continue to provide their daily needs. Lord fill them once again with the Holy Spirit and give them the courage and the perseverance to continue their ministries that you entrusted to them in order to accomplish and perfect your purpose in their lives.

Lord I pray for us as a church to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord let your Word for us today in this message transform us, and make us to follow you like what Joseph did. Lord we pray that our life will be a good testimony to attract others to follow you. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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