

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 5

“5 And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison. 6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad. 7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?” (Genesis 40:5-7 KJV)

Joseph on that day when he came to his duty to serve the officers of Pharaoh, the chief butler and the chief baker, he observed that they were sad. But the thing here that we know is this: Who would not be sad in the jail. But when Joseph noticed that and wondered why they were sad it means that it was not an option for Joseph to live with sadness while he was staying in that prison. Which means he was happy and glad working there in spite of all the injustices that was placed on him and ended him to be there. **Such a person is a great testimony and encouragement to others who are passing such trials of life.** Not only that but he was wondering why the officers of Pharaoh were sad as he told them, **“Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?”** Joseph was the one who was serving and sure he was providing for them the best services to meet their needs as they were entrusted to him by the captain of the guard. So not only Joseph was happy in that place but he wanted others also to be happy and not to express sadness on their faces. Joseph was so attentive in his work and so he was a good observant to the faces of the people because through the faces he could read what were the inside of them. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Be happy and glad in whatever place or circumstance God had placed you in.**
- **Be diligent in your work and serve the people and meet their needs and work it out that they will be happy with you.**
- **Be observant to the faces of the people and to the circumstances and work it out to read out what is hidden behind their faces and inside of their hearts.**

When Joseph faced them why they were sad they opened up to him what they were passing through: **“8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.” (Genesis 40:8 KJV)** They told him with what they were bothered, that they dreamed a dream, every one of them had a dream but there was no one there to interpret to them. Because usually at the court of Pharaoh there were magicians and wise men who could interpret their dreams as we can read here, **“8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof; and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.” (Genesis 41:8 KJV)** But there was no one of them in the prison that the butler and the baker could reach them for interpretation, and that was why both were sad because they could not figure out what were the meanings of their dreams. When Joseph heard such at once replied to them and directed them toward God telling them, **“Do not interpretations belong to God?”** Joseph first directed them to God which was his attempt to preach the gospel to them and informed them by the truth that the interpretations of the dreams do not belong to man but to God. And Joseph continued inviting himself further to serve them asking them to tell him their

dreams, **“tell me them, I pray you”**, in order to interpret to them and he was willing to use the spiritual gifts that God gave him to interpret them in that place that God had placed him. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Take the initiative to ask the people what are the things that bothering them and make them sad in order to open to you what is inside of them so you can serve them better.**
- **Invite yourself and be willing to offer services in order to start to serve people and to direct them in what is pleasing good and perfect will of God.**
- **Direct the people toward God and give Him the glory and the credit in all the circumstances in order for the people to know Him as the Creator and the Almighty God who can do anything as He wished and ordained it to be.**
- **Be willing to use the spiritual gifts that God had given you for His glory and purpose.**

“9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; 10 And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes: 11 And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. 12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: 13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.” (Genesis 40:9-13 KJV) As we read the butler responded and opened up his dream and what he was passing through. **As we offer our service to the people and are willing to serve them they will be willing to open up their lives to us and so we can minister to them.** Joseph started to interpret his dream by the Word of knowledge that he had from God, **“8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;” (1 Corinthians 12:8 KJV)** God revealed to him the meaning of the three branches by the Word of knowledge that they were three days. They cannot be three months nor three weeks but three days that in three days time Pharaoh shall review his case and he would restore him to his previous position as indicated in the dream that he will deliver once again the cup in the hand of Pharaoh, as he was doing before. That Pharaoh once again would trust him as the investigations would show he was innocent and would restore him once again to be responsible to manage what he was going to drink. Joseph with what he noticed on the faces on that day was able to proceed further in his service and ministry unto people and unto God, and we know also later on such service of Joseph had worked out to his own benefit. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Trust God and use diligently the spiritual gifts that God gave you to serve Him and to serve the people under your care, which later on such services would be directed to you and you will be the one to be benefited of them.**

“14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:” (Genesis 40:14 KJV) Joseph of what he received from God and was sure that the butler would be restored to his position, so he asked him to show him kindness in mentioning him to Pharaoh in order to bring him out of that place. Joseph when asked the butler to

help him not that he was putting his trust on men, but he was turning any possible mean so that he would not loss any opportunity God was opening for him to be set out of that place. He knew that only Pharaoh was able to set him free from his master who bought him, otherwise there was no other way as we previously explained, and that was why here he requested the butler to mention his name unto Pharaoh when he would be restored after three days. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Trust God and use your spiritual gift confidently in serving God. Tell the people exactly what God is saying to you and what His Word is stating because sure God shall fulfill all what He had said.
- Trust God and not people, and turn and use every opportunity that God may place in your hand in order to progress and move forward in life.

“15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.” (Genesis 40:15 KJV) When Joseph asked help from the butler to recommend him to Pharaoh, Joseph was a prisoner, and he needed to say something about himself that the butler could tell to Pharaoh. Pharaoh would not help a criminal so he needed to choose choice words about himself that he needed to say to the butler. Joseph indeed was wise and used wisdom to present himself with choice words as we are admonished, **“6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 4:8 KJV)** Joseph told the butler that he was stolen from the land of the Hebrews. The land of Hebrews is where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived in Hebron. So Joseph presented himself as a person from the people of God. He did not say that his brothers sold him because that would be a very shameful testimony to them. But he said he was stolen, and so was brought to Egypt as a slave, whom he was bought by Potiphar, the captain of the guard. **Therefore we as believers should not tell to the outsiders who are not in faith with us about the shameful things the believers are doing because that would be a bad testimony to the church.** Joseph also used wisdom to tell the butler how he came inside the jail. He did not tell what that woman did to him otherwise it would be a scandal to her and to his master, Potiphar, the captain of the guard when such would be mentioned in Pharaoh’s court, and such as previously explained it would never help him. Therefore with the wisdom of God that he gave him he said, **“and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon”**, which was very enough to the purpose. **Therefore you don’t need to speak much, because first it is useless, second people are not interested with all these details, and third it may work badly against you.** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Don’t mention anything negative about what is going on in the life of the church to the non believers.
- Any matter negative about the church you need to discuss it sharply and boldly inside the church and deal with sin properly.
- Don’t mention anything non helpful when you present yourself and your case to those whom you are asking help from them.
- Use wisdom and do not mention negative things about people, even those who harmed you, because it might even would have bad effects on you.
- Ask God wisdom before you speak, and be sure when you speak, you are speaking the very words that God wants you to speak.

“16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: 17 And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head. 18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days: 19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.” (Genesis 40:16-19 KJV) When Joseph served the butler and interpreted to him his dream correctly, the baker was encouraged to come forward and asked interpretation for his dream. **When we are faithful to God and to the people to do our ministry God shall bring to us new people to minister to them.** The baker narrated his dream to Joseph, and Joseph interpreted to him his dream with the word of knowledge that God gave to him. Joseph was honest in his ministry mentioned to the baker what would happen to him that after three days as denotes from the three baskets that were on his head on the dream, that Pharaoh would be going to hang him. That was a shocking interpretation but Joseph was not reluctant to say the truth because that what he needed to do, to face the baker with his sin of conspiracy against Pharaoh. **We in the same way the spiritual gifts that God gave us the purpose of them is to tell the truth to the people, we need to face them with their sins, because they need to repent, otherwise there is no use of our ministry if we will not combat sin, correct the people, rebuke them, and tell them the truth.** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be faithful in serving God and in doing the ministry that He is entrusting to you to do.
- Be honest in telling the truth to the people and to rebuke them for their sins.
- Never flatter the people and hide from them the coming judgment of God. In doing such you are not giving them a new opportunity to repent, and to come out from their sins and return to God.
- Repent form all your flatteries and compromises otherwise the judgment of God shall fall upon you.
- Stand with God, tell the truth so people will heed and repent and the wrath of God shall be averted.

“20 And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. 21 And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: 22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.” (Genesis 40:20-22 KJV) All what Joseph had said came true and was accomplished and God made it to pass. **In the same way as you minister before God and accomplish His will and purpose, then all what you are going to say would come true and God would support you and prove your ministry as you stood with God and obeyed His instructions.** Pharaoh was enjoying his life with worldly celebrations and parties. But Joseph was in prison suffering. He was innocent, without crime and bearing the suffering that God wanted him to pass through. **We are like Joseph we don’t celebrate worldly events like birthdays. In addition, no saint in the Bible had celebrated his birthday, but only Pharaoh and Herod, and both were non believers.** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Stand firm with God and tell the truth and God in His faithfulness shall let it to pass as He ordained it and you declared it to the people.

- Be willing to suffer for God and share in the suffering of Jesus, while others are enjoying the worldly pleasures.
- Away from worldly celebrations and stop celebrating birthdays, for none of the saints in the Bible had celebrated such events.

“23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.” (Genesis 40:16-23 KJV) The butler did not remember Joseph; he forgot him after he was released from the prison and restored back to his job and to the court of Pharaoh. But that does not mean that Joseph was forgotten by God. **When people forgot you: When those whom you served and got improved and went away and forgot you: When you do all what you need to do and people are unfaithful and forgot you that do not mean you are forgotten by God.** When that butler forgot Joseph and did not do what he ought to do, that was still good for Joseph, because he would be taken out from the prison in a more favorable time and in more pleasant event in God’s perfect timing. Noah while he and his family were in the ark, after a considerable period of months God remembered them, **“I And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;” (Genesis 8:1 KJV)**

My dear and beloved: So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Never be discouraged when people would forget you.
- People will forget you, but God will not.
- It is good that God Himself will come on His perfect time to reward you and to lift you up.
- People will remember you when you are rich, when they need your help and when they are in troubles, but God remember you when you are in a low state as the Scripture tells us, **“23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever.” (Psalm 136:23 KJV)**

* Therefore never be discouraged because of the circumstances that you are passing through, God shall remember you as you are willing to go through the plan that He had ordained for you to pass through. * Come now to God, surrender your life and your will to Him, be willing to continue to serve Him and be willing to continue to comply with the lessons that you received in this message from the life of Joseph, trusting God that He will neither leave you nor forsake you, and He will never forget those who serve Him and dedicate their lives to do His will and to live for Him. 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 encouraging Word that motivated me to go on and serving you bearing all the trials that you allowed in my life. Lord thank you for all the material things and all the resources and the spiritual gifts that you had given to me and bestowed over my life that I will use them to serve you. Lord thank you for revealing your will and your plan that you had ordained for me to pass through. Lord thank you for all the lessons that I learned in this message from the life of Joseph, and thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments that we received from your Word.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and repent of your non willingness to endure injustice and your non willingness to serve and provide service during such circumstances. Confess and renounce your non willingness to use the spiritual gifts that God gave you to serve His people. Confess and renounce your unfaithfulness in doing your tasks in the job that God had given to you to do. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your involvement in celebrating the worldly feasts. Repent of celebrating birthdays like the worldly people. 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 forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit my life into your hand, and I surrender my will to you, to lead me into the path that you want me to pass through. Lord I am willing to serve you and serve your purpose in the life of the people that you want me to serve. Lord I accept the scenario that you had placed me in and I am willing to use all the material and the spiritual gifts that you placed in my hand to serve you. Lord I pray that you will give me good health, strength and uphold me with your grace, protect me and continue to provide for me to continue to serve you. Lord I trust you that you will neither leave me nor forsake me and you will answer all my prayers in your perfect time.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins, and who surrendered their lives and their will unto you. Lord continue to use them in the places that you had put them in. Lord have mercy on them, answer their prayers, provide their needs and relief them from the troubles that they are in so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to persevere in doing the good plan that you have for each and every member, worker and minister of the church. Lord sustain us to pass the following trials in our lives _____.
Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and enable us to make new disciples, train new workers, and 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 take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations and people who need to hear your Word. 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.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
 The Church Overseer
 Church of God
 United Arab Emirates
 Email: thebread1@gmail.com
 Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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