

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 7

“15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. 16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” (Genesis 41:15-16 KJV) Pharaoh admired Joseph of what he heard about him that he can interpret a dream. But Joseph did not go along Pharaoh neither he boasted about himself but rather at once he humbled himself before Pharaoh and instead he gave the glory to God. He told Pharaoh clearly that he was not the one to interpret dreams but it is belonged to God, that God Himself shall give the interpretation of the dreams and God shall give to Pharaoh the answer of peace. What Joseph did he first directed Pharaoh to God. And what is understood by the answer of peace, that God shall declare His will to Pharaoh, and will explain to him what he was going to face of troubles in the coming future and what Pharaoh needed to do in order to face the trouble which would allow God to have full control on the situation and grant Pharaoh the good outcome and would ultimately has peace. People are in big troubles since they neither know God nor His will and we need to help them to know God, to direct them to Him, to show them His plans for them, and to assure them that God shall grant them peace as they will surrender their will to God and follow His instructions so that peace shall reign in their lives. Joseph was in peace and he was not in panic when he stood before Pharaoh. He trusted God and had confidence in God that He will put the right words in his mouth as God promised us, **“18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.” (Matthew 10:18-20 KJV)** And indeed Joseph spoke the very Word that God wanted him to speak. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Never ever boast about yourself but you always give the credit and the glory to God.
- Always the first thing you do in serving the people is to direct them to God.
- Fully trust God and have confidence on Him that He will put in your mouth the right words that you need to speak to the people.
- Be at peace and relax when you are put in such circumstances so you will have a clear mind and can receive from God what He wants you to receive from Him.
- Always direct the people to God their maker for from Him they can receive their needs, the answer of peace and the solutions of their troubles.
- Always speak what God wants you to speak to the people to bring the answer of peace to them.

Immediately as Joseph told Pharaoh that God shall give him the answer of peace, Pharaoh proceeded to tell him what he saw in his dream; He couldn't wait for the answer of peace that God would give to him so he spoke further to Joseph: **“17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river: 18 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow: 19 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and**

very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness: 20 And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine: 21 And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke. 22 And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good: 23 And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them: 24 And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.” (Genesis 41:17-24 KJV) People who are ready and prepared by God to listen they are eager to hear in order to receive solutions for their troubles. Pharaoh immediately started to narrate his dream that he saw and as we read it on **Genesis 41:2-7, “2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow. 3 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. 4 And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. 5 And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. 6 And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. 7 And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.”** But what he added to his narration was his own impression of what he saw. In verse 19 we read about the poor and very ill favored and leanfleshed kine that he never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness. **“19 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:” (Genesis 41:19 KJV)** That they were so bad, and the land he saw was the land Egypt and he never saw as bad as what he saw of kine in the dream and such terrified him because he was aware that a calamity would be coming on Egypt and he did not know neither what it will be nor how to face it. Added to that that those ill favored kine when they did eat the fat ones they remained ill as they were. **“20 And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine: 21 And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning.” (Genesis 41:20-21 KJV)** Which mean there was no clear remedy for the calamity that was coming toward Egypt. Added to this that Pharaoh told the magicians about it but they were unable to declare what was it, nor what the problem was nor how Pharaoh would solve it. Pharaoh was left with nothing but with Joseph who was standing before him listening to his dream to interpret it to him.

“25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. 26 The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. 27 And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. 28 This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. 29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: 30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; 31 And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. 32 And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.” (Genesis 41:25-32 KJV) Joseph

immediately used the gift of the word of knowledge that God gave him to interpret the dream of Pharaoh, **“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 seven good kine and the seven good ears, are seven years of plenty that would come on Egypt, and the seven ill looking kine and the seven empty ears are seven years of famine that would follow and come on all Egypt and it would be so severe in badness that it would consume all the land and all the good years of plenty would be forgotten by the severity of the famine. Joseph added to Pharaoh that the dream was doubled to Pharaoh so that he would take warning and heed of what God had established and was going to do and soon. It seemed that Joseph spoke sternly and firmly with Pharaoh, to make him realize that God was serious in what he warned him to do. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Use the Spiritual gifts that God had given you to serve the people and to give them the message of God for them.
- In whatever situation that you placed in, be aware that God had placed you there and He wants you to serve Him, therefore be courageous and use all the gifts and talents that He gave to you to achieve that purpose of serving Him.
- Be serious with the people that God wants you to deal with and deliver to them exactly the message that God wants them to hear as warning to them, and as motivation for them of what God wanting from them to do and achieve for Him.
- As people got prepared by God and are attentive to the message that is delivered to them that speaks about the situation of their life, then you need to proceed and describe to the people as God revealing to you the solution to their problem that they are facing, describing to them all the measures that they need to adopt to combat the coming threat.

It seemed that Pharaoh was so attentive and astonished to what he heard and to what Joseph delivered to him and that was a go signal for Joseph to proceed further and told him the following solution to combat the seven years of famine that will come on Egypt: **“33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. 35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. 36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.” (Genesis 41:32-36 KJV)** Joseph advised Pharaoh to find a man who is discreet and wise. The Hebrew word for ‘discreet’ is ‘bîn’, which means understand, understanding, consider, prudent, perceive, regard, discern, or instruct. Discrete can mean a person who is tactful, circumspect, cautious, precise, careful, diplomatic, subtle, sensitive, judicious, sensible, well thought out, well judged, careful, or prudent. That this man should be wise and with understanding to go along and abide in discipline and discretion with certain plan that needed to be adopted and implemented over several years. Such a person would be worthy to be set over all the land of Egypt, under the authority of Pharaoh, to be responsible to manage the resources in order to meet the needs. He suggested to Pharaoh to set also officers under that man to help him, and who would be responsible to collect the fifth of the increase of the land, or the fifth of the harvest during the seven years of the plenty; that they needed to store that increase in

every city, that each city or region has its own storage of food, and to continue to do that during the whole seven years of plenty, and to be kept under the control of Pharaoh, so when the seven years of famine would come then they would be ready and had enough for their food and they would not perish during the famine. Joseph here did not only give the task that needed to be done of hard work but as well as if you look deep to it you will find the following contents that they needed to adopt in their lives:

1. Discipline: Joseph gave Pharaoh the discipline of reducing their expenses and not to consume all what they would reproduce from food during the seven years of plenty but to save something for the years of famine. No more Pharaoh and the people of Egypt would be spending on birthday parties, on expensive clothes, on expensive furniture, and on ornaments, for the food they would reproduce they needed to save for the famine’s years. This discipline would be a long term lasting style of life. That especially during the plentiful time they needed to implement so they would be ready when the famine comes.

2. Thriftiness: They needed to cut their costs of living as much as they can. They cannot waste their resources, meaning they need to recycle, reuse, to repair and to replace with other options to reduce their expenses in order for them to save the fifth of their harvest for each year. So their style of life and inclinations needed to be totally changed to be able to overcome and succeed in their endeavor to live, that all the society of Egypt needed to adjust and be aware of the changes that they needed to implement in their lives. They needed to persevere in that to secure their survival during the seven years of famine.

3. Hard work with creativity and precision: They needed to build suitable stores for the food, the wheat or the corn that they would store. They needed to be creative in that for the food that they would be going to store in the first year would be used for eating on the eighth year, and the food that would be stored on the seventh year would be used for eating on the fourteenth year. Therefore they needed to be precise and scientific in their calculation in building those store houses, and the conditions that they needed to operate under, in order to preserve the food for long years, even seven years.

So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be discrete and wise man who is prudent, careful, precise, sensitive and with well understanding to go along and abide in discipline and discretion with a certain plan that needed to be adopted and implemented over several years.
- Be a thrifty man and be willing to change the style of your life that you cut all the unnecessary expenses so you will be able to save the fifth of your income so you have enough when famine comes or when necessity arises.
- Be willing to cut parties, wearing expensive clothes, eating expensive food, cutting trips of pleasures, wearing gold and jewels, riding expensive cars, and the rest of the things that swallow your resources and hinder you from saving.
- Be hard working person to achieve the task entrusted to you and that you need to do it with creativity and precision so that you can endure and succeed in your life in overcoming famine, scarcity and bad circumstances.

My dear and beloved: Pharaoh was pleased with what Joseph told to him from the revelation of God that explained to him of what he was going to face and what he was in

need to do in order to face that trouble that he would come in his life. Not only Pharaoh but all his servants, his officials and those who were in his court were in agreeing with what Joseph said. **“37 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. 38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?” (Genesis 41:37-38 KJV)** Pharaoh was so touched with the solution that Joseph had given to him as he delivered to him the Word of God and what was in the mind of God for him to do. Pharaoh declared and acknowledged that Joseph had the Spirit of God as he declared, **“38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?” (Genesis 41:38 KJV)** The Spirit of God was recognized from the wisdom that Joseph spoke, from the discipline that Joseph gave them to do, that they needed to save the fifth of their harvest, that they needed to live in thriftiness, avoid wasting, extravagant spending and lifestyle, and that they needed to work hard in order to accomplish their assignment, and that they needed to do it in creative manner and in precision to serve the very purpose of it to save their lives from the famine. The Spirit of God gives freedom and deliverance from troubles. The instruction of Joseph gave Pharaoh and his servants the means to be set free from the bad effects of famine. Joseph was rewarded after he declared to Pharaoh God’s Word and God’s will in what he needed to do to face the coming famine. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be assertive and confident in delivering the Word of God and the will of God to the people who are in front of you to listen to what God is telling them and to what is in His mind.
- Be discrete and wise man who is prudent, careful, sensitive and with understanding to go along and abide in discipline and discretion with a certain plan that needed to be adopted and implemented over several years.
- Speak with wisdom and deliver the discipline that God wants the people to hear and do and to implement in their lives.
- Speak in confidence about thriftiness and how to reduce expenses and to save resource so that people would be able to save up to one fifth of their income for the future so they will be able to face famines, difficult and bad circumstances.
- Be ready to be reward for your faithfulness in serving God and in accomplishing His will.

From the story of this message and what we witnessed when Joseph spoke to Pharaoh and asked him to save the fifth of the harvest which meant that Pharaoh needed to cut the cost of his living, his celebrations, his birthday parties, his extravagant expenses, and the rest that he can cut without affecting his wellbeing and would contribute to the saving of the one fifth of the harvest; in the same way be willing to do the following:

- Be willing to listen to correction and humble down and be willing to follow the instructions of the style of life that God had ordained for you to live and adopt in your life.
- Be willing to take waning and heed the instruction from the Word of God so that you can face the trials of life, the famines and the bad circumstances with success.

- Be ready to be rewarded by God as Joseph was rewarded when He stood for God and waited patiently in accomplishing precisely all what God had asked him to do.

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 in this message and the warning that you sent in pertains to the trials that I am going to face in my life and how I need to live and what I need to do to face them. Lord thank you for all the Spiritual gifts and the material blessings that you bestow in my life and that can make me live well satisfied and well provided. Lord thank you for all the opportunities that you placed before me to serve you. Lord glory to you alone for all the answers of peace that you allowed me to declare to the people that you sent me to preach your Word to them. Lord thank you for the teaching that you sent to save me from the following problem _____ . Lord thank you for the answer of peace that you sent to me through your Word. Lord thank you for the peace that I have in my heart and in my life. Lord thank you for all the rebukes, the corrections, the admonishments, and all the lessons that we received from this message.*

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride and your lack of humility. Repent of your boasting and showing off and your non willingness to direct the people toward God. Repent of your stubbornness and your hard headedness. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, your lack of thriftiness, and your wasting for your resources. Confess and renounce your non willingness to use the Spiritual gifts that God gave you to serve the people. Confess and renounce your fear of man and your non willingness to declare to them the Word of God, His mind and His will in their lives. Confess and renounce your lack of discipline and your lack of perseverance to serve God and doing His will. Confess and renounce your lack of creativity and your lack of precision to accomplish the assignment and the task that God had asked you to do. Repent of your worldliness and your love of material things. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. 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, Lord I am willing to stand firm to declare what is in your mind, your Word, your will and the answer of peace from your mouth to the people. Lord I am willing to use the Spiritual gifts and all the material things that you gave to me to serve you in serving the people that you directed me to serve. Lord thank you for the warning, the discipline, and the style of life that you ordained for me to follow to overcome the following trial _____ . Lord I commit myself to humble down before you and do your instructions and follow the style of life that you ordained for me to live. Lord I am willing to adopt the style of saving the fifth of my income and to go into thrifty living. Lord I surrender my will to you and I am willing to do your will and your plan in my life. Lord give me good health, strength and give me wisdom and attentive ears to hear your voice to follow your instructions. Lord speak to me of what I

need to do in to face the following problem _____. Lord uphold me with your grace and continue to provide for me so I will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who humbled themselves and committed their lives to live for you, and the style of life that you want them to live in discipline, thriftiness, saving the fifth of their income, being creative and precise in doing the task that you entrusted to them to do and living and doing your will and your plan in their lives. Lord help them in their trials, answer their prayers, give them wisdom and speak to them how to solve their problems. Lord give them assertive spirit to stand firm to declare your will and your Word to the people they are ministering to. Lord sustain them, provide their needs, increase their faith, do miracles in their lives and reward them for their stand in their services to you. Lord set them good examples to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to declare your will and your Word to the people that you are sending us to. Lord we place in your hand the following trial _____, Lord lead us how to handle it. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize, to make new disciples, to train new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations and people who need to hear your Word. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. 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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