

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 9

“45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt. 46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. 47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. 50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. 52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” (Genesis 41:45-52 KJV)

In this message we are going to speak about the marriage of Joseph and about his family. As we know that Joseph was sold by his brothers to the Ishmeelites who took him down to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian, as we read, *“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.” (Genesis 39:1 KJV)* The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered. The Lord also blessed the household of the Egyptian man because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. In spite of all that honor the Lord bestowed on Joseph, he was still a slave and under a master that he was accountable to.

Speaking about the proper time of marriage, at this stage of Joseph's life, although God was with him but he was still a slave and not yet stable and settled, and it would not be a proper time for him to get married. The Word of God telling us the following: *“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)* *“The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man”*, but at that time God did not give Joseph a wife. Why? Because Joseph was not yet ready and he was not well settled for marriage. *Many people while they are under certain pressure and restrain they will go forward and bound themselves with marriage while they are still slave and bond with many restrictions of work pressure, financial constraints, debts, parents responsibilities, unstable political situations, fear of wars, actual wars, hectic national economic conditions, and all these will add more pressure and troubles on their marriages.*

At this stage Joseph was young and was handsome, he was also threatened as we discussed before by his master's wife who took notice of him, *“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. 11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” (Genesis 39:7-12 KJV) Joseph in spite of all this pressure and temptation he did not fall into sin because his mind was clear. The following was what in his mind that contributed to his stability toward that particular temptation:

- A. Sex is only for married people.
- B. No marriage unless he is well stable and settled.

Now compare yourself with Joseph and conclude the following lessons from the life of Joseph:

- Sex is only for married people.
- No marriage unless you are well stable and settled.

Many people marry early because of temptations or driven by lust, but not yet the proper time for them to marry. Marriage would become ultimately the scapegoat of their temptations and lust. They marry at the wrong timing and with the wrong partner just as a result of temptation or sin.

Joseph in Potiphar house was promoted but yet he was still a servant; he was not yet settled and he was not in a stable condition or in a position for marriage. *Most of the temptations and trial to marry early in age is in this period. It is a false safe period to think about marriage.* Some persons other than Joseph might be tempted to think about marriage but that was not the right time for him. ** Many when they will marry they will say I want to settle. But true settlement should happen at the right time and when things are well prepared and in God's will. * The settlement should precede marriage, because marriage itself will bring troubles and not settlement. * Therefore if there is no settlement then there is no platform for marriage.*

If you will read further in *Genesis 39* then you will conclude that the position of Joseph in that house was not stable: *“13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, 14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: 15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. 16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. 17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: 18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. 19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. 20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.” (Genesis 39:13-20)*

KJV) Therefore although God was with Joseph and he prospered, yet being in that house was not the right time for him to marry, to have a wife, and got settled with a family.

Those who marry in wrong timing, earlier than what God had ordained, when they are not yet settled or stable, their marriages and families will go into turmoil. That is why you find many who are married at the wrong timing their marriages and families are suffering. Joseph if he had married while he was in Potiphar's house and later on would he be put in jail, then his marriage and family would suffer much, and what will be happening to the wife and the children? Therefore you need to understand that there is a perfect time and stable condition for you to get married, and you need to wait till that time to come.

Paul in pertain to troubles and problems accompanied and followed marriages he said the following: **"25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. 27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. 28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you."** (1 Corinthians 7:25-28 KJV) * What Paul meant with this statement to those who want to marry, **"Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you"**, is that if they will marry, marriage will bring troubles to them, and the troubles are more if the marriage is in wrong timing, for that troubles will affect their marriage outcome, and they might end up with divorce, separation, second marriage, multiple marriages, ungodly children, etc. Marriage by itself is a trouble in the flesh how much more if marriage take place when the person unprepared and unsettled. * Paul also said, **"But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned."** What he meant is that marriage is not sinning; but to end up with divorce, separation, failure to meet the children physical and spiritual needs, second marriage, multiple marriages, and the rest, all these are sins and contribute to the raising up of ungodly offspring.

If we take the example of the marriage of Joseph, he got married in the age of thirty after he was taken out of jail, got appointed second to Pharaoh, and was put in charge into the whole land of Egypt. **"46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt."** (Genesis 41:46 KJV) Therefore that was the right time for Joseph to get married for the following reasons.

A. Joseph was in a position of authority: **"41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. 42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; 43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."** (Genesis 41:41-44 KJV) He was not a slave under somebody controlling him, but he was free and in a high position of authority. **Be discerning about your life situation if you are in stable condition**

to get married or you are in troubles and marriage will add more troubles into your life that you cannot manage.

B. Joseph the circumstances that he was living in were stable and settled economically and politically: **"47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number."** (Genesis 41:47-49 KJV) The whole country that he was living in was stable and prosperous, so Joseph was also blessed with all that and his marriage happened in a prosperous time. **The marriage that happens in God's perfect time is stable and fruitful because it takes place in a prosperous time. Are you well prepared financially or poor and don't have the mean to sustain a family; therefore you need to check your financial situation so you will not be in financial trouble after marriage.**

C. Joseph had already passed through all trials and overcame: Joseph was trained through the trials that he was passing through and he overcame. He proved his maturity, and his character traits were proved and nurtured during all those trials. **If you are still passing through continuous hardships and trials in your life then you are still under training and that is not the time for you to get marry and add more troubles to yourself and to your family.**

D. There is a person for you to marry: **"45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt."** (Genesis 41:45 KJV) The Hebrew meaning of Asenath, the wife of Joseph is **'belonging to the goddess Neith'**. The Hebrew meaning of On is **'strength'** or **'vigour'**, a city in lower Egypt, bordering land of Goshen, centre of sun-worship, residence of Potipherah (priest of On and father in law of Joseph). The Hebrew meaning of Potipherah, Asenath's father is **'he whom the Ra gave'**, an Egyptian priest. Most likely this marriage had happened in this way: Since Joseph was put in high authority, Pharaoh made this choice for him, to choose for him the daughter of the priest of On, since the priest were highly honored in Egypt and they were considered second to Pharaoh. This match was to go fit with the high-rank position of Joseph; consequently, that marriage was a mark of great honor and affection toward Joseph. Therefore, because of such a reason, even if that choice being to marry non-believer and an idolater wife disagreeable to Joseph, he might be not in a position or situation to refuse such a marriage. In pertain to Godly marriage, the choice that was given to Joseph was to marry a non believer which is not agreeable to our faith but Joseph was not in the position to refuse and he was not the one who chose that but Pharaoh after he gave him the office and bestowed on him all the honor and authority, that was why he could not object. * **Here, I am not approving you to marry a non-believer, but what I am saying is this: When you are in the right place and in the settled circumstance God has a suitable person for you to marry.** Joseph received her as if from God the woman that He prepared for him, the same as he received the deliverance from the prison, being freed from being a slave, freed from Potiphar his previous master, the same as he received the new vision to save lives of people and the nation of Egypt, the new office with the high position, honor and authority, and a father to Pharaoh. * **You**

need to fully trust God, to surrender your life and your will to Him; that you give Him the full control over your life that He will lead you at the right time to marry the right partner that He has for you. Joseph was aware that all these were from God and even his marriage from Asenath. Joseph was aware that God sent him to Egypt even as he was sold by his brothers and that what also he said to them, **“7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”** (Genesis 45:7-8) and the Scripture confirms that, **“17 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:”** (Psalm 105:17) and with all that, Joseph was convinced that Asenath was God’s arrangement for him to marry even if she was the daughter of an idolatrous priest. From other aspect we can say also about this marriage that since Jacob disobeyed God and married for the second time, Rachel, who brought in the idols of her father to his family, then such, was the marriage of Joseph to a non believer would be a grief to Jacob. God certain times settle accounts of sin and wrong doing in paying back His people their wrong doings toward Him. The same happened with the marriage of Esther to king Ahasuerus; since the people of God worshipped idols and served them God brought them into exile and such disgusting matching to their marriages to idolatrous took place was in paying them back for their wrong doings.

E. Plenty is needed to raise Godly children: **“49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. 50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.”** (Genesis 41:49-50 KJV) Joseph got his children at the time of plenty. * You need resources and finances to spend on your family and children. People who marry in unsettled economic conditions will bring troubles to their offspring. * Family and children need good accommodation, food, clothes, educations and the rest of the necessary things. * So better for you is to wait and be ready with all that so your family and children will not suffer after marriage.

F. God wanted Joseph to forget his sufferings: **“51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.”** (Genesis 41:51 KJV) Marriage is a reward from God when a person had overcome. Joseph overcame, therefore he was rewarded and God caused him to forget all his sufferings. Joseph was faithful to God in naming his son Manasseh, as if he was testifying that God had made him forget all his suffering and bountifully rewarded him. Marriage also becomes due when you finished your responsibility or accountability to your parents and family. If you are still burdened with your parents and your family is still depending on you then that is not yet the time for you to get married. If you are still in trouble because you are caring for your family then your marriage will add more troubles to what you have.

G. God wanted Joseph to be fruitful: **“52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”** (Genesis 41:52) Joseph was faithful to God in naming his son Ephraim, as if he was testifying that God had made him fruitful inspite of all the pressure and the affliction that he received in the land of Egypt/ Marriage should bring fruit in the form of newborn children who

would be new disciples for Jesus. That process of discipleship needs resources and time, and needs you to be stable, mature, and resourceful to meet that need.

My Dear and Beloved: Now compare yourself with Joseph and conclude the following lessons from the life of Joseph:

- Be discerning about your life situation if you are in stable condition to get married or you are in troubles and marriage will add more troubles into your life that you cannot manage.
- Check your life and your financial situation if you are stable and well provided that you can sustain a family. Put in your mind that marriage that would happen in God’s perfect time is stable and fruitful because it takes place in a prosperous time.
- Check yourself if you are mature and well trained. If you are still passing through continuous hardships and trials in your life then you are still under training and that is not the time for you to get marry and add more troubles to yourself and to your family.
- Don’t get marry or be yoked with a non believer.
- When you are in the right place and in the settled circumstance God has a suitable person for you to marry.
- You need to fully trust God, to surrender your life and your will to Him; that you give Him the full control over your life that He will lead you at the right time to marry the right partner that He has for you.
- Plenty is needed to raise Godly children, and you will need resources and finances to spend on your family and children. Your family and children need good accommodation, food, clothes, education and the rest of the necessary things.
- Better for you is to wait and be ready with all that so your family and children will not suffer after marriage.
- Marriage is a reward from God when a person had overcome; for God is able to make you forget all your sufferings. Therefore you need to overcome.
- Be faithful to God and testify that he had made you forget all your afflictions, bountifully rewarded you, and had made you fruitful in the land of your suffering.

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 that teaches me lot of principles about Godly marriages. Lord thank you for enlightening my mind and made me understand your will in my life. Lord thank you for all the trials and the hardships you allowed in my life to make me mature and strong. Lord thank you for what you chose for me to marry. Lord thank you for you made me forget all my afflictions and made me fruitful in the land of my suffering. 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 you're going to marry without being well prepared financially and mature spiritually. Confess and renounce your wrong timing for marriage. Confess and renounce your marriage with a non believer. Confess and renounce your marriage with a wrong partner. Repent of your idol worship, your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your bad stewardship and your lack of saving. Repent of your lust and immoralities. Repent of your separation, your divorce and remarriage, and your multiple marriages. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God in your life. Repent of your unfaithfulness and ungratefulness to God. Repent of being irresponsible person toward your marriage partner and your family. 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 follow the principles that I learned in this message about marriage. Lord I surrender to you my life to train me before marriage and to prepare me completely for it in order to be mature and responsible person. Lord I surrender to you the time for my marriage and I am willing to marry the person that you had prepared for me and at your perfect time. Lord I commit myself to be a responsible person toward my partner and toward my family. Lord I will follow the plan that you have for me in my life. Lord help me to overcome this struggle _____, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and your will in their lives, and are willing to follow the principles that we learned in this message about marriage from the life of Joseph. Lord help them in their lives and prepare them to be ready to marry the partner that you prepared for them. Reward their obedience and give them Godly families. Lord help those who are married, sustain them and provide all their needs. Lord sustain them in the trials that they are passing through, give them good health and strength to continue to serve you. Lord reward them for their obedience and make their lives good testimonies for others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to implement all the teaching we received in this message in teaching and preparing the singles to have Godly families and to continue to teach those who are married to continue to care for their families and to raise up Godly children. Lord sustain us and continue to provide for us to continue to serve you. Lord 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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