

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 14

“1 Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Goshen. 2 And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh. 3 And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers. 4 They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen. 5 And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee: 6 The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle. 7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8 And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou? 9 And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage. 10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh. 11 And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.” (Genesis 47:1-13 KJV) Joseph informed Pharaoh about the coming of his father and his brothers from the land of Canaan. Joseph informed him with the truth and was not ashamed of them that they were shepherds, informing Pharaoh they came with their flocks and herds, and they arrived in the land of Goshen. He did not hide their occupation nor the purpose of their coming to Egypt; he also took some of them and presented them to Pharaoh and upon his question about their occupation they answered him honestly they were shepherds as their fathers, and further they declared to him their purpose of coming to Egypt that they had no pasture and came to Egypt to feed their flocks and requested him to dwell in Goshen. They followed the instruction of Joseph and said the truth. **Always tell the truth and instruct the people to tell the truth.** Pharaoh rewarded them for the truth that he heard from them and ordered that they would dwell in Goshen, in the best of the land of Egypt they would dwell. Also Pharaoh was willing to employ them to serve as rulers over his cattle. Joseph also was not ashamed of his father but was proud of him as he brought him to Pharaoh to meet him, and Jacob in that meeting blessed Pharaoh. Joseph fulfilled his commitment to God and to his father and brethren in placing them and giving them possession in the land of Egypt, in the best part of the land in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. And Joseph fed his father, his brethren, and all his father's household with bread, according to their families. He provided for them during the whole period of famine. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Always tell the truth and instruct the people to tell the truth.
- Don't be ashamed of the professions of your fathers.

- Don't be ashamed of your parents in front of people especially in front of people of high position.
- Keep your commitment and feed and care for your loved ones that they had repented.

“13 And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. 15 And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth. 16 And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail. 17 And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.” (Genesis 47:13-17 KJV) Joseph's unique plan of saving and storing food was so essential to maintain life during the time of famine. During the famine Joseph did not give food free of charge, but he sold it to the people. Sure he sold it with good price during the famine, and so he collected all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and Canaan. **When you know how to save and keep your resources during the time of famine you will not spend them but also you will get good profits from what you collected at the time of plenty.** Joseph gave all the money to Pharaoh for he was honest to the trust that was given to him. Joseph never gave food free. **Don't give free privileges, always put the cost and that is how you prove that you are a good steward for your resources.** When money failed Joseph asked them to bring their cattle to get food in exchange to their horses, asses, flocks and herds. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Be good steward to save during the time of plenty so at the time of famine you will not loss nor spend but you will get more profits.
- Be honest in finances and to the trust that was given to you from the people.
- Be good steward for your resources and don't give free things to the people without putting the cost of the things that you are going to give to them
- What you collect is for God and He will be the one to use properly at the proper time condition and circumstance.

“18 When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands: 19 Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. 20 And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. 21 And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof. 22 Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands. 23 Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I

have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land. 24 And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones. 25 And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants. 26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part, except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's." (Genesis 47:18-26 KJV) Joseph also sold food to the people for their land, and in such they were servants to Pharaoh. Joseph had great and successful economic strategy to work on. He was wise in dealing with the people. He did not keep them in their land that they sold to get food, but he moved them from their land that was on one border to the other border of Egypt so he can control them as they will be aware that it was not their land that they had brought to. He told them the truth that he had bought them and their land to Pharaoh. He gave them seed to sow the land and instructed them that the fifth part of the harvest shall be to Pharaoh and the rest shall be for their food and for the food of their households and their families. The people appreciated what Joseph did to them and they told him that he had saved their lives and committed themselves to be the servants of Pharaoh and that they will give Pharaoh the fifth of their harvest. **Your programmed economical strategic work the people shall appreciate and value the good things that you would do to them. But if the people are ungrateful and arrogant they may not appreciate that, but still you need to do what you ought to do in order to be obedient to God and to His Word and will.** Joseph made it a law in Egypt that the fifth to be given to Pharaoh. This percentage is the correct percentage that God wants us to save from our income so that we would be able to stand the strategic challenges in the future. Joseph did not touch the land of the priests because they had continuous provision from Pharaoh therefore they did not sell their lands. In such Joseph had wisdom and did not try to meddle with them being aware the time had not come to deal with them. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Always sell what you have from products for a certain cost and don't give free.
- Be creative in the way that you ask the people to pay for what you give them.
- Be programmed in your economic strategic work to aid people in their living and save lives.
- Tell always the truth to the people and how you are going to deal with them.
- People would appreciate what you are doing and giving to them, but even if they are not appreciative still you need to do what you need to do in obedience to God to His Word and to His will.
- Keep one fifth of your income for saving so that you will be able to stand the strategic struggle of the future.
- Know your limit and do not try to meddle with people that God did not give you way to deal with them. Leave such people to God, He will be the one to deal with them in His perfect time and in His own way.

"27 And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly. 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years. 29 And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son

Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt: 30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said. 31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he swore unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head." (Genesis 47:27-30 KJV) Jacob and the rest of the brethren of Joseph, who are called Israel, multiplied in the land of Egypt under the care and the provision of Joseph as he fulfilled his commitment that he promised to his father and to his brothers. Jacob lived seventeen years in Egypt but he did not forget the land of Canaan that God had promised to give them. Therefore he called Joseph and asked him to make a commitment to him that when he will die he will not burry him in Egypt, but to take him and bury him in the burying lace of the family in the land of Canaan. Jacob was not after traditional useless things but after giving the message to his children and descendents that Egypt was not their destiny but the promised land in Canaan is. The same for us now, earth is not our place, we are foreigners on earth, but our place is in Heaven, therefore we need to live such a life that we are working out to reach Heaven after we die or when Jesus comes. Joseph agreed and made his commitment to fulfill the desire of his father not because he was his father but because what he asked was a Godly desire and the will of God to teach his descendents to direct their focus on the promises of God and toward Heavenly things. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Your good works and help to the people in fulfilling your commitment shall help the people and aid them to multiply and increase and God shall reward you for that.
- Don't go along and do the traditional and the cultural practices that are contradicting the Word of God.
- Do things along the Word of God and His will so that you set good example for others around you and for your descendents to follow after you.
- Don't honor the request of your parents if what they ask contradict the Scripture.
- You ought to honor the request of your parents that goes along the Word of God.
- Use burial as a way to bury the dead and avoid cremation.

"1 And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed." (Genesis 48:1-2 KJV) Joseph visited his father as he heard he was sick in order to see how things were going with him and to meet his needs. He went with his two sons to make his father happy to see his grandchildren, and to teach them to honor their grandfather. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Take care of your parents especially in their old age and meet their needs.
- Visit your parents when they are sick to meet their needs
- Bring your children to them to visit them to make them feel good.
- Teach your children to care and to honor their grandparents.

“3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, 4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. 5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. 6 And thy issue, which thou begetteth after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance. 7 And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem..” (Genesis 48:3-7 KJV) Here Jacob declared to Joseph that his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, shall be his, to Jacob, and what Joseph would have of children later on would be reckoned for Joseph but under Ephraim and Manasseh. Joseph with his good heart and his willingness to give did not object his father. And Jacob did that because he wanted to give Joseph the birthright, ***“21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.” (Hebrews 11:21 KJV)*** Jacob abided with the will of God when he blessed Joseph’s sons Ephraim and Manasseh. This took place as the following: Reuben was Jacob’s first son, but he did something disgraceful that excluded him from taking the double share, the privilege of the firstborn son. This is what he did as he slept with Belhah the concubine of his father: ***“22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.” (Genesis 35:22 KJV)*** Therefore Reuben was excluded from taking the privilege of the firstborn son. His father rebuked him and told him the reason why he lost the right of the firstborn in his last meeting with them to bless them, and explained also to his other children what wrong Reuben did as we read here: ***“3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: 4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.” (Genesis 49:3-4 KJV)*** So Reuben was excluded and marked that he will be unstable as water and will not excel because of the sin that he did. Therefore Joseph was chosen to have the double share of the blessing in obedience to what God had revealed in the past and fulfilled later on in Joseph’s life especially after Joseph fulfilled his commitment to nurture and care for his father and his siblings in fulfillment to the dreams that Joseph received from God: ***“5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.” (Genesis 37:5-11 KJV)*** So Jacob put these dreams of Joseph in his mind. And when it came finally true that Joseph was in Egypt and was

made second to Pharaoh and finally that he became truly over the rest of his brothers in caring for them and providing for them and for his father Jacob, then Jacob realized the dreams of Joseph were from God, and since Joseph obeyed God and did and provided for all of them therefore Jacob consented and abided with God’s will to give the double portion of the firstborn to Joseph. Therefore for this reason Jacob needed to adopt the two sons of Joseph as his sons and to bless both of them as Jacob’s own sons in order to pass the double share to Joseph as he stated that he will give him one portion above his brothers as we can read here the whole ceremony: ***“8 And Israel beheld Joseph’s sons, and said, Who are these? 9 And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them. 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. 11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed. 12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them near unto him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. 15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, 16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. 17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father’s hand, to remove it from Ephraim’s head unto Manasseh’s head. 18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. 19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. 20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh. 21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.” (Genesis 48:1-22 KJV)*** Joseph responded to his father and obeyed him therefore he helped him to bless his two sons by bringing them near to him. Joseph thought that his father did not see well so he tried to redirect his right hand to the head of Manasseh his eldest son and explained to his father and directed him toward the firstborn that he needed to put his right hand on his head. But when his father refused and explained to him that Manassah would also become a great nation but his brother Ephraim would be greater than him, then Joseph was aware and respected and obeyed what his father was doing knowing that his father was directed by the Spirit of God prophesying what would be taking place in the future. At the end of that meeting Jacob assured Joseph that God shall be with them and will bring them to the land he promised them the land of Canaan, and Jacob declared to Joseph that he gave him one portion above his brothers by giving him the land that he bought by his money in Shechem. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- To be willing to give your children to your parents if they ask you to give to them to bless them.
- Obey your parents when they tell you the Word of God.
- Obey the prophetic message about the blessing of God to your children.
- Continue to labor and do what you need to do in obedience to God and His will to you and He will be the one to bless you, reward you and raise you on high above others as you continue to serve Him and serve others according to His Word and instructions.

My dear and beloved: Let the Word of God that you heard in this message and the Holy Spirit to work on you to transform you and do the needed changes in you to be the person that God wants you to be. God had for you assignments that you need to do and as you do them then God shall be the one to reward you and give you the portion that you deserve as a recompense for your diligence perseverance and faithfulness. Review and go through the message and find out your assignments clearly and what you ought to do. Let us pray

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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 me eternal life. Lord thank you for all the teaching and the lessons and the new things that I learned in this message. Lord thank you for all your promises and your goodness and all what you had accomplished to me. Lord thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my hand and the opportunities that you had opened to me to serve you in serving your purpose in the life of the people. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the admonishments, and the rebukes we received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride and your feeling ashamed of your parents in front of high class people. Repent of telling lies, not speaking the truth and teaching others to tell lies. Repent of your non willingness to accomplish to others and help them of what you had promised them. Repent being dishonest with the money entrusted to you. Repent of your non concern about your parents. Repent of doing cultural and traditional things that are against the Word of God. Repent of your bad stewardship, your lack of saving and the way how you handle what God had placed in your hand. Repent of you lack of wisdom in dealing with people in certain circumstance in the ministry. Repent of your lack of discretion, crossing your borders and meddling with people that you should never do such things with them. Repent of your non willingness to do your assignments, suffer for Christ and to serve Him in the way He wants you to be. Confess your non willingness to go along God's will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of treating prophecies with contempt. 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 myself to follow the principles and the lessons we learned in this message. Lord I humble myself into your hand and I am willing to go along the plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to tell the truth and to teach the people to tell the truth. Lord I commit myself to accomplish what I had promised to do to help the people. Lord I commit myself to save the fifth of my income, to be good steward to use my resources wisely and not to give things to the people without cost. Lord I ask you wisdom and

discretion to handle the following situation _____. Lord I commit myself not to be ashamed of my parents in front of high class people, and to care for them and help them in times of need. Lord I commit myself to teach my children to honor their grandparents. Lord I commit myself to do my assignments, to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Lord give me good health, and strength, and provide my needs to go on and serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principles that we received in this message. Lord grant them wisdom and success to know how to manage their life and ministry and the various difficult circumstance that you are wanting from them to handle. Lord give them wisdom to use their resource and to be good stewards to what you had given to them. Lord continue to provide for them so they will continue to serve you. Lord reward them for their works and labor and make their lives good testimony to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue the ongoing tasks that you had ordained for us to accomplish for you. Lord continue to give us wisdom and discretion to handle various people and circumstances that you allowed us to handle. Lord we commit ourselves to serve you according to your Word and your will and to be good testimony to our families, children, disciples and workers. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to evangelize and reach the lost. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need 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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