

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 16

“1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him. 2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel. 3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days. 4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again. 6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear. 7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen. 9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company. 10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days. 11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which is beyond Jordan. 12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them: 13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre. 14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.” (Genesis 50:1-14 KJV) Here Jacob died after he prophesied to all his sons what would be happening to them and their posterity in the future to come. Joseph fell on his dead father's face, wept over him and kissed him. Upon his death Joseph immediately started to work out to fulfill his father's desire to be buried in the land of Canaan in the promised land that God promised to give them. Jacob in such desire was directing his descendents and teaching them that Egypt is not their destiny but they needed to go back to the promised land in Canaan, the same for us now, the earth is not our destiny but Heaven and from there we are waiting for Jesus to come and take us and so we need to be ready and prepared for His coming. Joseph needed to fulfill this desire because it was Godly, so he asked his servants the physicians to embalm his father so his dead body can be preserved while they would be carrying him to the burial place of the family in the cave of the field of Machpelah. Otherwise there is no need for the dead body to be embalmed. Joseph also made arrangement and asked permission from Pharaoh explaining to him that he needed to leave his job for a while to go and bury his father as he requested him and Pharaoh approved that. The burial of Jacob was a pompous one as we read and the reason behind that because Joseph was in high authority and all such was done in respect to his position in Egypt. Therefore Joseph and his brothers needed to comply with such and to go along to keep the honor and the prestige of the Pharaoh and his government, otherwise there is no need for all such things. After the burial Joseph and all his house and his brethren and his father's house went back to Egypt, to their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the

land of Goshen, and also Joseph needed to go back to join his work. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Use burial to bury the dead.
- Don't cremate the dead body.
- No need to embalm the dead person unless you need to transfer him to other place and you need a long time to transfer him.
- Don't leave your work without permission from your superiors to go and bury your dead.
- Simple funeral is required and enough and no need for a big pompous one unless there are other factors.
- Join your work immediately after you finish burying your dead and the funeral.

“15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. 16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, 17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. 18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. 19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. 21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.” (Genesis 50:15-21 KJV) After the death of Jacob, the brothers of Joseph were shaken and were afraid from Joseph that he might hate them and do evil against them; thinking as if he had retained hatred or unforgiveness toward them, or he was with revengeful inclination toward them but he hid that during his father's life, because he would not grieve him. Perhaps his brothers realized that they were left without the protection of their father, and now they were left alone with Joseph who had great authority in Egypt, therefore such a thought or contemplation came to their minds. Therefore they sent to him a messenger to speak to him and convey to him that his father before he died commanded to say to Joseph to forgive his brethren for the evil they did against him and their ultimate goal was to ask forgiveness from him for the evil that they did against him, and of which they repented. And Joseph wept when the messenger spoke to him; either being troubled that they should be in such anxiety and distress of mind, or because their ill opinion of him and distrust towards him; inspite of all the kindness which shows that he had really forgiven them. His brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said to him that they were his servants. And Joseph said unto them, to fear not. He immediately assured them that they should not be afraid as he saw the distress and the fear they were in, especially he was aware that they were not only his brethren, but they were as well as the servants of God and he needed to love them and assure them so they will not be overwhelmed with their sorrow, as Paul said it, *“7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. 8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.” (2 Corinthians 2:7-8 KJV)* Joseph also asked them, *“for am I in the place of God?”* He humbled himself fully to God, realizing that God is the one who will revenge if ever God would decide to do that. Joseph was the

governor of Egypt but he was not taking the seat of God to judge his brethren of what they did to him. Joseph was aware that God had orchestrated all that and had sent him before them to Egypt to save lives as he told them before, **“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 KJV) More than that Joseph submitted to the will of God and the judgment of God; that he needed to forgive them, love them, provide for them, and nourish them, for ultimately they were the servants of God and from the family of faith and all what they did to him was meant to propagate the salvation of God. Joseph would not hurt those whom God hath blessed; and so may have regard to the late patriarchal benediction of his father, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. So how he would now hurt them and do something opposite to what God had ordained to pass. Joseph further told them that they did evil, that their intention was bad, for they thought to contradict his dreams that came from God, and made them of none effect, by trying to take away his life, or to have made him a slave all his life, but God used what they did to do something good to save lives in saving the nation of the Egyptians and the neighboring nations, as the Canaanites and others, and particularly his father’s family. Thus the sin of the Jews in crucifying Christ, which, notwithstanding the determinate counsel of God, they most freely performed, was what wrought about the greatest good, the salvation of men. **“22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”** (Acts 2:22-24 KJV)

Further this what Joseph did, **“Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.”** (Genesis 50:21 KJV) Joseph assured them again not to be afraid from him, but that they needed to trust him, telling them that he will nourish them, providing for them and their families. Now they should have the confidence in Joseph, for he was faithful to do that during the years of famine, how much more now when things are getting better. Even he further comforted them and assured them with kind words that served to remove their fears, worries and anxieties. They might be tormented by the devil and his accusation against them, so what Joseph spoke of kind words healed them and gave them assurance. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Comfort the people who repented and assure them that you had forgiven all their trespasses, and that they should not be afraid of you.
- Confront the people and explain to them the evil they did God had used to bring his salvation.
- Don’t take the place of God to judge or revenge of the people; leave that to God.
- Submit yourself fully to God and to His will; to forgive, to love and to do the needful to those repented people who did evil previously against you.
- Do not hurt those whom God blessed.
- Do your assignments that you committed yourself to do.

- Comfort the people and assure them not to fear you telling them that you will fulfill to them what you had promised them.
- Use kind words to speak with the people that serve to remove their fears, worries and anxieties. They might be tormented by the devil and his accusation against them, so your kind words would heal them and give them assurance.

“22 And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years. 23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees. 24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. 26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.” (Genesis 50:22-26 KJV) Joseph continued to live in Egypt, and he lived to the age of 110 years caring for his father’s house. So he lived in Egypt ninety three years. Thirteen years he lived in Potiphar’s house, and in prison, and when he was thirty years of age he stood before Pharaoh, and eighty years he lived in the greatest honor and prosperity as a governor over Egypt after Pharaoh. God blessed Joseph with long life and saw Ephraim’s children of the third generation; his great grandchildren’s children. He saw also the children of Machir the son of Manasseh who were brought up upon Joseph’s knees who might be born before the death of Joseph, and were placed on his knees to bless them, and dandled on his knees, as grandfathers, when they are fond of their grandchildren, they do such.

Joseph before his death called his brethren, not necessarily his own siblings but his kindred of his family and his father’s house that he was caring on and nourishing. He called them to inform them that he expected to die as that is the way for all those who live on earth. Therefore he needed to endorse them with the message of God and His will to them. That he even will die but God shall surely visit them with his love, grace and mercy, nourish them, protect them and provide their needs, and ultimately shall bring them to the land of Canaan. This was the prophecy of Joseph about their exodus from the land of Egypt, in which they dwelt, to the land of Canaan, which God swore and promised to those patriarchs, their fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give to their posterity. **“22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.”** (Hebrews 11:22 KJV) Joseph knew that Egypt was not his place that he should be buried there, and knew that God would finally come and fulfill what He had promised to His people by bringing them into the promised land. Therefore Joseph by his faith in God was able to see the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Knowing and was assured through faith that God would finally come and deliver His people out of slavery and bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey. And that what Joseph asked the Israelites to do, **“And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.”** (Genesis 50:25 KJV) Joseph took an oath not of his brethren only, but of their posterity, that were now grown up, that it might be communicated from one to another until it will become well known to that generation which should depart out of Egypt. He confirmed to them again that God shall surely come to visit them and will come and bring them to the land of Canaan, and therefore

with the oath that he was taking from them they needed at the time of exodus to carry up his bones from Egypt to the land of Canaan. He did not oblige them to bury him there when he should die, possibly it may cause them trouble in doing that because they might not be given permission to leave Egypt and do that as he did to his father. This was accordingly done; when Israel went out of Egypt; Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, **“And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.”** (Exodus 13:19), and they were buried in Shechem in the land that his father gave to him, **“And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.”** (Joshua 24:32) Stephen informed us that not only the bone of Joseph but as well as the bones of his brothers were also carried to be buried in the land of Canaan, **“15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, 16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.”** (Acts 7:15-16 KJV) Therefore when Joseph died was embalmed to preserve his dead body until the time of exodus to be taken out and buried in the land of Canaan, **“So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”** (Genesis 50:26 KJV) Joseph followed the good example of Jacob to direct his children and descendants that one day they needed to go back to Canaan the promised land. Joseph in what he did directed his siblings and the rest of Israelites after him with the same message. The Israelites obeyed the instruction of Joseph about his bones, Moses carried them, and perhaps with the rest of the bones of the patriarchs the siblings of Joseph, as he led the Israelites out of Egypt and stayed with them forty years in the wilderness. After Moses Joshua was responsible to bring the Israelites into the land of Canaan and at that time the bones of Joseph and rest of his siblings were buried in the land of Canaan.

Now, how you can apply the above message in your life? Egypt for you is the earth that you are living now, but the place that you should look and long for is Heaven, the eternal dwelling with God, **“20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”** (Philippians 3:20-21 KJV) You should set your mind and focus not on the earthly things that will perish but on the Heavenly dwellings that God had prepared for us to dwell with Him forever. Therefore you should be ready and prepared for the second coming and the return of Jesus so that you can go with us to Heaven with Jesus when He appears. What is written in the Bible we should not miss so we are ready and prepared at His arrival. **“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”** (1 John 2:15-17 KJV) You are not to be worldly and attached to worldly things but to think about Heavenly things and the place that God had prepared for us in Heaven. **“7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in**

despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you. 13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-18 KJV) It might be that externally we are weary and troubled with many trials and the hardships of life, but we should not focus on that because we are aware that our inner man is renewed day by day. Therefore we can conclude from such that our afflictions and the sufferings that we are passing through, as we persevere will work for us eternal glory. **“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** (Hebrews 12:2 KJV) Here on earth you are in a mission to live your life for God and to be a good steward and a good testimony to others to follow Christ. Your final home is in Heaven, and when Jesus will come we will be together with Him and forever.

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

- Live such a life on earth that you be ready and prepare yourself for the second coming of Jesus whether you are alive or dead you are prepared for His coming.
- Live such a life that you can set good example and good testimony to others to follow you in their lives so when Jesus would come they would be ready to go with us with Jesus to Heaven.
- Persevere and stand firm against all trials that may come against you, knowing that God shall reward you and recompense you for all your hard works and labor.
- Do not oblige the people to do for you unnecessary things.
- Continue to care for the people, teach them, admonish them, and endorse them with the message of God and His will; to live a life worthy and prepared for the second coming of Christ to meet the Lord in the air.

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 me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that taught me beautiful principles to apply in my life and in my ministry. Lord thank you for the warning that I received in the message that Jesus is coming soon and we need to be ready and prepared for His coming to go with Him. Lord thank you for

all what you had placed in my hand from material things and spiritual gifts that I can use to serve you and do your mission and accomplish your purpose in my life. Lord thank you for all the opportunities that you placed before me to serve you. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections the admonishments, the rebukes and the lessons I received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride and showing off. Repent of your attachment to cultural and traditional things that contradict the Word of God. Repent of your approval for cremation as a way for burial. Repent of your anger, un-forgiveness, and grudges toward those who did evil against you. Repent of your non willingness to persevere during the times of hardships and trials. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of fixing your eyes on earthly things and not on Heavenly matters. Repent of your lack of keeping your commitment to help those who repented of their sins and need help. Repent of taking the place of God to judge people. Repent of leaving your job without taking permission and your unfaithfulness toward your boss who had helped you in life. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him in the way He wants you to be. Repent of being neither good example nor proper testimony to others. Repent of your lack of prayers and reading your Bible. 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 persevere in serving you in whatever scenario plan and trial that you put me in until I do your will and accomplish your purpose in my life. Lord I commit myself to forgive those who hurt me and to help those who had repented of their sins. Lord I commit myself to assure the following people and comfort them that I had forgiven them and I will care for them _____. Lord I placed the following people in your hand to deal with them _____. Lord I commit myself to teach about burying the dead and to shun cremation. Lord I commit myself to be faithful in my work and to those who helped me in my life. Lord I commit myself not to neglect my work and leave it without permission for my personal things. Lord I am willing to go along your plan and your will. Lord I commit myself to be good steward of my resources. Lord lead me and show me the things that you want me to do and I will do them. Lord I commit myself to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Lord uphold me with your grace, provide for me, give me strength and good health and I am willing to follow you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to go along your plan for them. Lord aid them in their lives, increase their faith and trust in you, provide their needs, do wonders and miracles in their life and ministry and give them good health and strength to go on and serve you. Lord answer their prayers, grant them success in their mission to serve you, reward them, make their lives good testimonies to others to follow you, and prepare them to be ready to go with you when you come to take us.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to walk through the narrow gate and the path that you prepared for us to go through. Lord give us patience and perseverance, increase our faith and trust in you that our hard work and labor is not in vain and it will be rewarded fully by you. Lord we commit ourselves to use all our

material resources and the spiritual gifts that you gave us to save new souls and to bring your great deliverance to the people that you are sending to us. Lord refill us 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 the 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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