

Being a servant brings success

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Sunday morning service

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Many of our issues are because of decisions we make.

Joseph was a servant to his father and his older brothers – even though his older brothers didn't see it that way.

God has a plan for your life.

God is the author of life = Each person has been created by God with a plan for their life.

We have a problem with the word 'success'.

We think success is:

- What I want to do/achieve.
- What is my needs.
- What do I want.

It should be what God wants us to do/achieve.

Joseph never looked at his needs or his wants.

If we're a servant, success will come to us.

We must revolve around God, Not God around us. God is the centre. We are not the centre.

For the earth to receive sunlight and heat, the earth must revolve around the sun – and not the sun around the earth.

Joseph prospered and became successful, God was with him.

No one is born a success.

No one is made a success.

You can be born into wealth, but that is no guarantee that you will prosper.

We as parents need to create the correct mentality in the child.

We all experience failures, but it's not the end of us.

You must be there for your child.

It's not where you start, it's where you end.

It's not your beginning, but your ending.

Joseph started off in a wealthy family.

He was the favourite.

Jacob called his sons together and said: "This is the one I love the most".

That was not a good start for Joseph.

Genesis 37:1-4

Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan. These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicoloured tunic. His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

Joseph received a lovely coat.

He showed it off to his brothers, because he was a child – only 17 years old.

With the tunic comes authority.

He is 17 years old and he received authority over his brothers from his father, when receiving the coat.

Joseph had a dream.

"Let me tell you my dream." - He was a young boy.

Genesis 37:5-8

Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Joseph received another dream.

"Let me tell you this dream too."

He was only a young boy, most loved, got a coat, carried stories...

Genesis 37:9-11

Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

All the other sons went to work, except the favourite son.

Joseph's father sent him to go check up on his brothers.

Genesis 37:14

Then he said to him, "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

Off he went, wearing his coat (representing his father), the prize possession of favouritism.

As he arrived they took his coat, attacked him and threw him into the pit.

Joseph couldn't get out.

He had no food, no water – just a lot of heat and dust.

NOW it is very easy to say:

"Lord, you gave me a dream."

"Lord, you said..."

Between a dream/prophecy/sermon and the end - you will find yourself in a pit for your dream/prophecy/sermon to be fulfilled.

Whenever you get a word with somebody else's name on it, be careful how you use it.

In the pit, whose report will you believe?

In who/what is your trust/belief/faith.

A caravan comes along and he becomes someone else's property.

His brothers sell him, they wrong him.

Genesis 37:28

Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Joseph never points a finger of blame to anyone – because you cannot be a victim and a victor at the same time. You are one or the other.

Then, he is sold a second time.

Genesis 37:36

Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.

He becomes a slave, but God is with him.

He decided that he's going to be the best slave he can be.

It's not what he wanted to do, but he decided to be the best.

He became the prophet of his own life.

He was put over the other slaves, which is better than being under them.

Chief slave, but still a slave.

Potifer goes on a business trip.

Mrs. Potifer:

"Joe, come here..."

Joseph:

"Yes ma'am, no ma'am, I could not do that, ma'am"...

Integrity is doing right, when you can do wrong with nobody knowing.

His integrity is doing right.

Mrs. Potifer tells Mr. Potifer a different story.

Joseph's trust is broken.

He went from slave, to semi-free, to prisoner.

He becomes a prisoner, but it's not his fault.

He becomes a prisoner because he wants to do right.

Again:

- We cannot be a victim and a victor at the same time.
- He never points a finger of blame to anyone.

HE DECIDES: I'll become the best prisoner.

God is with him.

To become best, you must do more than what is expected of you.

Pharaoh's cup bearer and baker ended up in jail – both dreamers.

Genesis 40:6-8

When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected. He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please."

After the interpretation:

Genesis 40:14

Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

Genesis 40:23

Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

2 years later the Pharaoh has a dream and the cup bearer remembers about Joseph.

'Before you go back to prison, what shall I do?'

Genesis 41:33

Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:37-43

Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants. Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?" So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

'Get a man for the job.'

'You are the man.'

This was not the beginning of Joseph's success or his prosperity – it started at the pit.

It started with the correct attitude.

It carried on with Mrs. Potifer.

It picked up speed in prison.

God is with us in everything we do.

At 17 he was in the pit.

At 30 he was 2nd in charge of Egypt.

Success is the decisions we make when things are going wrong – not the decisions we make when we are honoured.

Slaves do not win wars.

Joseph started his success as a slave.

10 sons sent by their father to buy food with carts.

A wealthy man.

You can have all the money, and still starve to death.

You can own a grocery store – the racks go empty and you starve to death.

10 Sons come to the store house and bow to the storekeeper.

Joseph could have said: "Yes, the dream has come to pass!" – NO!

He is 39 years old now – more mature.

He is no longer a 17 year old boy.

If God is in my life, I don't have to blame others for what they do/did to me.

Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

You do not have to react to people who treat you badly.

Our hearts must be right.

Joseph saved over 10 million people, but only ministered to 70.

This is the size of our God and His task for you.

Success and prosperity does not come to those who lord it over others.

It comes to those who are willing to serve others.

Questions:

1. Name one situation you had to overcome.
2. How did you overcome it.
3. How did it change your life?