Joseph: A Prince Charming in a World Full of Frogs!

Text: Genesis 49:22-26; Psalm 37:23, 24

There is no way that we will be able to exhaust the life of one of the most godly and written about men in the Bible. What I hope to do in this study is to accent a life well lived in spite of unmitigated setbacks that ended up being colossal setups for time and eternity.

I. THE COMPLICATIONS OF A FAVORED CHILD
Genesis 37:1-4

A. If you are favored, be humble.

Joseph is a prime example of a young man that could have easily allowed things to go to his head, but instead Genesis 41:16 informs us, “And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

Isaiah 57:15 teaches us, “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, Whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

B. If you are rejected, look up.

Psychologists will constantly go to a person’s youth to see if there was rejection that could have influenced their patient. No matter what the disappointments Psalm 27:10 encourages us, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.”

C. Return good for evil.

The teachings of Jesus that teach us to turn the other cheek seem so far away from the public arena, that it would do us well to remember that Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5:38, 39). This teaching is not isolated in Scripture for it says in Romans 12:17, “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” The guiding principle for our actions and reactions should evermore be the golden rule. “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men

should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

II. THE BLESSINGS AND THE BURDEN OF BEING A DREAMER
Genesis 37:5-11

Genesis 37:19: "And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh."

A. Dreamers are close to God.
Amos 3:7: "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth his secret unto His servants the prophets." Psalm 25:14: "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and He will shew them His covenant."

B. Rebels to God's authority will not appreciate your dreams.
Genesis 37:8: "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."

C. Obedient people will listen and obey.
Genesis 37:11b: "…but his father observed the saying." Proverbs 1:5 reminds us, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."

D. Dreaming triggers envy in the jealous heart.
Genesis 37:11a: "And his brethren envied him…." Proverbs 27:4: "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" Envy was the driving force of the Pharisees' desire to see Jesus die. Mark 15:10 says, "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy." Acts 7:9: "And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him."

Paul, while writing to Timothy of those who do not embrace the philosophy of Jesus and doctrine of godliness, says in I Timothy 6:4, "He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings."

What is the difference between envy and jealousy? Envy denotes a longing to possess something awarded to or achieved by another, such as temptation to feel envy when a friend inherits a fortune. Jealousy, on the other hand, denotes a feeling of resentment

that another has gained something that one more rightfully deserves. Envy is when you want what someone else has, but jealousy is when you're worried someone's trying to take what you have.

III. A STUDY IN THE SYNERGY OF THE RIGHTEOUS
Genesis 37:12-36

Consider the word “together” from Romans 8:28. It is the Greek word *sunergeo* meaning “together at once.” It is where we get the English word “synergy” or “synergism.” This is defined as the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements or contributions. The Cambridge dictionary defines synergy as the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately. Romans 8:28 says, “…all things work together for good…” but specifically, “to them that love God….” The Hebrew word for righteous is *tsaddiyq* which means just or lawful. The Greek word for righteous is *dikaios,* meaning equitable in character or act; by implication, innocent and holy. A great commentary on Romans 8:28 is found in Genesis 45:5; 50:20. Joseph loved God and was a righteous man. The blessing that followed him can be ours as well, if we follow Christ and live righteously.

A. God will not forsake His righteous people.
Genesis 37:23-25a
Psalm 37:25: “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread.”
Psalm 34:19: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

B. The righteous know how to say no.
Genesis 39:8,10-12
Psalm 34:15: “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”
Proverbs 12:3: “A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.”

C. The righteous keep coming out on top.
Genesis 39:22,23

Genesis 40:23; 41:14; 41:38-44
Genesis 42:5-9
Psalm 34:17: “The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.”
Prov. 11:21; Proverbs 14:19; Proverbs 15:6, 29; Proverbs 29:2; Matthew 6:33
Psa. 55:22: “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

D. Righteous people are forgiving people.
Genesis 45:1-5; 50:15-21

Conclusion:
The theme that runs throughout the life of Joseph that set him apart from the world in which he lived was that <u>God was with him</u>. See Genesis 39:3, 23.
Acts 7:9: “And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.” Joseph was a “Prince Charming” in a world full of frogs!
Acts 10:38 speaks of Jesus: “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.”

-Pastor Pope-