

## Jsph 14 – The Blessings of Integrity - Gen 46:31 - 47:27

Webster's Defines Integrity THREE Ways - but here's my favorite

Integrity: *The quality or state of being undivided*

I think that may be Warren Wiersbe's favorite Definition also

Warren Wiersbe (as Quoted by Chuck Swindoll):

*A person with integrity is not divided (that's duplicity) or merely pretending (that's hypocrisy). He or she is whole; life is "put together," . . . People with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear. Their lives are open books.*

### Prov 10:9

***9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.***

& Jesus Christ explained Integrity this way . . .

### Luk 16:10-13 - ESV

***10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.***

***11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?***

***12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?***

***13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”***

**Integrity is:** *The quality or state of being undivided*

If we bear the **Name of CHRIST** - We are **called** to a *Life of Integrity*  
in **Church** - at **Work** - & most importantly - at **Home**

But **we cannot** attach **different priorities**  
to these **different areas** of our lives (*that's Duplicity or Hypocrisy*)

& **it's a TRAP** so many Christians *have fallen into*

**We COMPARTMENTALIZE our lives**

We act one way at **Church**

We act another way at **Work**

& then yet another way at **Home**

But we **need to understand** - **GOD** is **NOT** *Compartmentalized*  
& He **did NOT** give us *Compartmentalized* lives

We are **ALWAYS** living before God  
& God is the **ONLY ONE** Who knows our *True Integrity*

**Our TRUE INTEGRITY** - is **ONLY** seen **By GOD**

**Because** *True Integrity*

Is what you do - ***When NO ONE Else is Looking***

**Joseph** lived a life that was **Right before God**  
**when no one else was looking**

& **today** - we see the **Immeasurable Blessings**  
of **Joseph's life** - lived in *True Integrity*

& **I Pray** it **challenges** our hearts to be *Totally Undivided*  
Especially **When No One else is looking**

**Let's Pray**

**Since the beginning** of our study  
**Joseph** has modeled - **True Integrity**

**& today** - we're going to see the **Results** of his *Life of Integrity*

There are **NO** "*Defining Moments*" in today's text  
**Those moments** have **already happened** . . .

**They've been** happening since Joseph was **17 yrs old**

**The Defining Moments happened when;**

Joseph was **sold into slavery**

He became **Manager of Potiphars** house

He Refused to be duped by **Sexual Temptation**

He became **Manager of the prison** he was thrown into

He was **Left Forgotten** when he deserved to be released

He became the **Prime Minister** of Egypt

He orchestrated the **Divine Forgiveness** of his brothers

& today we see the **RESULTS**  
of all those **Defining Moments** put together . . .

***Today we see - The Blessings of Integrity***

But **pls be careful** . . . **don't be sayin'**

*"Well I've already blown it, I guess it's too late for me"*

It is **NEVER Too Late**

**Thru out scripture** Men & Women w/ **No Integrity**

have **been Transformed** into Godly Men & Women **WITH Integrity**

& so **If we can't relate** to Joseph's **Life Long integrity**  
**Take hope** - **Stand strong** - & **Start today**

**Start Living** in *True Integrity* today

& **God** will transform you - *by the renewing of your mind*

**Put on** Jesus Christ - **Really, Truly, Totally, Put On Jesus Christ**  
& He will **Radically change** your life - **STARTING TODAY !**

& If we'll **start walking** with God in **True Integrity** today

He'll **wash away** the Past - & He'll **give us** a new Future (AMEN?)

---

---

**Remember** - Last msg **Joseph** was **reunited w/ his father** Jacob  
in an **incredible family reunion**

& now - **we pick it up** in the very **Nxt Vs** -

w/ **Joseph** preparing the Family - to meet the **Pharaoh**

### **Gen 46:31-34 -ESV**

***31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.***

***32 And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.'***

***33 When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'***

***34 you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.***"

**Right off** the bat - we see **Joseph**  
**using** the Wisdom - his **life has taught him**

**& he gives** his family **counsel**  
on **what to say** to the **Pharaoh**

**Some commentators** make a pretty **big deal** about the fact  
that two **different Hebrew words** are used here  
for the *family's occupation*

1) "Keepers of Livestock"

2) "Shepherds"

*But actually* - The **HEB word** for "Livestock"  
**can refer** to **any** domestic animal, **including sheep**  
*so we can't make too big a deal out of that*

The **real insight** is - **Joseph knew** the land of **Goshen**  
would be **the best land** for his family

**& explaining to Pharaoh** that they are **shepherds** (*tho despised*)  
**would be** the *best way* to get them to **Goshen**

The **land of Goshen** was somewhat **separated**  
from the "Mainstream" **Egyptian** culture

**& Joseph knew** his family could **live there**  
**& not** be **totally absorbed** by Egypt

**& this Insight** by Joseph is **actually the key**  
to **Israel growing** so incredibly huge *over the next 400 years*

---

---

So Joseph gets his Family prepared,  
& then - he gets Pharaoh prepared

### Gen 47:1-6 - ESV

**1 So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, “My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen.”**

**2 And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh.**

**3 Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?” And they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were.”**

**4 They said to Pharaoh, “We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen.”**

**5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you.**

**6 The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock.”**

It is absolutely incredible what

Joseph's life of Integrity before Pharaoh has brought him

Pharaoh says - Give them the best - Do what you think is best  
& if you want - put them in charge of my Livestock too

& notice in V. 4 - they ask to only SOJOURN in the land - -

They just need to stay awhile - They're just passin thru

Which is kinda true - if you consider 400+ yrs - Just passin thru !

---

Now - in **V.7** - **Joseph** brings his father **Jacob** to Pharaoh -  
& *as is Appropriate* - The **Greater** blesses the **Lesser**

The only *strange thing* here is  
**JACOB** blesses **PHARAOH**

### **Gen 47:7-10 - ESV**

**7 Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.**

**8 And Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the days of the years of your life?”**

**9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil [or hard] have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning.”**

**10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.**

It **has always been** correct for the **GREATER** to bless the **LESSER**

**Pharaoh** knew - **Jacob** was the **Patriarch** of Joseph's people  
& **Pharaoh** undoubtedly knew of **Joseph's God**

& **incredibly** - **Jacob**, this *now Homeless Hebrew Shepherd*  
**Displays** a greatness **OF GOD** even the **Pharaoh** recognizes

& **JACOB** *the Greater* - blesses **PHARAOH** *the ruler of Egypt*

---

---

**& so** - in doing ***ALL THIS*** . . .

**Joseph makes sure** everything is *taken care of*  
both in his **FAMILY** - & in his **WORK**

**& then** the fledgling **Nation of Israel**  
settles in Egypt's *most fertile land*

### **Gen 47:11-12 - ESV**

***11 Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers 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 provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.***

It is **BECAUSE** of his **Life of Integrity** that Joseph could  
**orchestrate** this *incredible blessing*

& it is the **Direct Result** of **Joseph's Integrity**  
**that keeps** the nation of **Israel** ALIVE during this **Famine**

---

& **now it's time** for Joseph to **go back**  
to **saving** the nation of **Egypt**

**& again we see** **Joseph's Integrity**  
both in his **POSITION** of serving Pharaoh,  
& with the **PEOPLE** he is charged with *overseeing*

**Gen 47:13-14** → →



## **Gen 47:13-14 - ESV**

**13 Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished 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, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.**

**Joseph lived in absolute Integrity -**

**Right in the midst of what could really be called  
"ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD" - (V.14)**

& there is **NO indication** that "*All the Money in the World*"  
ever **Affected** - or **Infected** - Joseph

**Joseph Lived out a Life of Integrity**

& he **already knew** - what **Jesus** said in **Mat 6:24**

## **Mat 6:24 - ESV**

**24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

No Matter **How much** money you have (whether Little or Much)

You **MUST CHOOSE** whether to Serve **God** - or Serve **Money**

**Joseph** chose well - & he passed **ALL that money** on to Pharaoh

---

---

But then **eventually** - Joseph collected **ALL the money** there was  
& the people were **still hungry** . . .

### **Gen 47:15-17 - ESV**

***15 And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone.”***

***16 And Joseph answered, “Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone.”***

***17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.***

**ALL the money** is now Pharaoh's

So Joseph says . . . ***Bring me ALL your livestock***

& that **kept the nation fed** for another year

& **ALL** the **Livestock** went - To **Pharaoh** !

---

### **But then eventually**

ALL the **Money** was Pharaoh's

ALL the **Livestock** was Pharaoh's

and the People were **STILL hungry** . . .

**Gen 47:18-22** → →

## **Gen 47:18-22 - ESV**

**18 And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, “We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord’s. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land.**

**19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate.”**

**20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh’s.**

**21 As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other.**

**22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.**

**Wait a minute . . .**

**FIRST Joseph collects ALL the Money in Egypt - FOR PHARAOH  
THEN Joseph collects ALL the Livestock in Egypt - FOR PHARAOH  
THEN Joseph collects ALL the Land in Egypt - FOR PHARAOH  
THEN Joseph collects ALL the PEOPLE in Egypt - FOR PHARAOH**

Joseph has pretty much **collected everything** there is  
for the **benefit of his BOSS** !!

& there is **NEVER** an indication  
that Joseph ever had **Negative feelings** about his **Job** - or **Boss**

---

---

I don't care where you are *in the Workplace - or the Ministry*  
there is very probably a time when you have said . . .

**HEY** - They don't deserve all that -  
it was my work, my effort, my idea that got them all that

& they just sit there like a big fat cat  
& I'm doing all the work around here

That sin of **Jealousy** & **Envy** & **Self-Centeredness**  
Exists in **EVERY** Workplace - **EVERY** Ministry - **EVERY** Heart

& in a **Pure Display** of the *Sin Nature*  
We cry out - **It's Not Fair to ME . . .**

I Deserve **More** - I Deserve **Better** - I Deserve to be **Appreciated**  
. . . *I know you do . . .*

But **do you understand** - that your **Sin Nature** is  
**causing** you to **LASH out** like that ?

**Do you understand** that **whatever else** is going on  
that those feelings in **YOU - ARE SINFUL !!**

**We must commit** to "Do what is **RIGHT** before the Lord"  
**no matter** what the circumstances are . . .

& then - **Let God be God** - Let Him Decide how it all works out

Over & over we've said:  
**Joseph did what was right before the Lord -  
Regardless of the circumstance or situation**

& we've got to **do the same thing**  
& then we'll **let God** sort out all the rest - **OK ?**

So - Joseph basically **accumulates** EVERYTHING in Egypt **for the benefit** of the Pharaoh - **including the people**

But he **NEVER** - **NEVER** takes unfair advantage of any **person** - or any **situation**

**In fact** - look back at **Gen 47:21**

### **Gen 47:21 - ESV**

*21 As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other.*

### **Gen 47:21 - NKJ**

*21 And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end.*

What **Joseph** actually did was **spread** the **people** out **evenly** over **ALL of Egypt** - in order to **save their lives**

**Remember** - That's what **he told his brothers** that **God had sent him** there to do

**& now** that he oversees **ALL the Land** - & **ALL the People** he **spreads** the people **out** evenly - to **SAVE THEM**

**Look** at this **Win-Win** plan from Joseph

### **Gen 47:23-26 - ESV**

*23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.*

*24 And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little*

ones.”

**25 And they said, “You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh.”**

**26 So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh’s.**

**Wow** - talk about the chance to **take some credit** . . .

The **people of Egypt** say to Joseph - ***“You have saved our lives”***

***But instead of Taking any Credit,  
or showing any Animosity toward Pharaoh (his boss)***

Instead - he **makes it a statute** (decree) that **Pharaoh** should get **20% of everything** the *entire land* of Egypt produces

& so - ***TWO Nations*** are **saved from Starvation**  
& **Pharaoh** gets **20%** of everything grown !

**ALL of the benefits of Joseph's Integrity went TO others;**  
The **Pharaoh** - Joseph's **Family** - All of **Egypt** . . .

**WHEN** does this guy **ever do Anything** - for **HIMSELF** !!!  
***Let me think . . . . NEVER*** !!!

Joseph is a **Type of Christ** - He is a **Picture of Christ**  
**AND he is a living example** of what **we are called to** as **Christians**

**So don't** blow Joseph off - & say ***“oh that's too high an example ”***

We are called to **be Like CHRIST**  
& **Joseph's life** paints a picture of **exactly what that looks like**

---

---

OK - to close, let's get one more look at Joseph's family

### Gen 47:27 - ESV

*27 Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.*

& by the time this Season is over  
Israel will become a nation of over 2 Million strong . . .

Trained in the hardships of Egypt  
& then Brought Out - to the Promised Land

*And in the end* - The Nation of EGYPT - & The Nation of ISRAEL  
were both saved - Thru the Integrity of the Life of Joseph

Yes Joseph is a Picture of Christ (*especially in this salvation*)

But he is also a picture - of the integrity we are called to have -  
both in our families & in our work

---

Joseph was responsible for a country on the verge of starvation  
& he made all the money in the world for his boss

But he still put his family first - he still took care of his family -  
right in the midst of "saving the world"

How about us - Dads - I'm talking especially to you right now

We come home from working for 8 hours  
*not hardly saving the world*

& **our wives ask** us to minister to our children -  
& we **snap back** - "*don't you know what I've been doing,  
I've worked all day*"

**MEN** - pls listen to me - **STOP WHINING**  
get your **priorities** straight

*Do your best* at **work**  
make your boss **money** - make the Co. **successful**

& **then come home** & do the **REAL MINISTRY**

**Come home** & have **Integrity** with your family  
**do what's right** for them - **Serve them** with all you have

& **when you** lay your **head down** on your **pillow** at night -  
you **must know** you've **given** your all - **IN INTEGRITY** . . .

& if you will **Confirm that** Every Night **in your heart**  
*I Promise You . . .*

God will **Bring Blessings upon Blessings** *thru your Integrity*  
**to those** God has called you **to serve**

**Let's Pray**